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THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2011

As traders prepare for new season... Is town making the most of its tourism industry?

DESPITE all of
Barry's natural
advantages, a recent
survey of UK coastal
resorts pinpointed the
town as the Welsh
tourist attraction with
the fewest number of
full time jobs.

It has led to calls for

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

an improved strategy in
attracting visitors and
creating more employ-
ment.In the last two years,
traders on Barry Island
have reported an
improvement in how thetourist trade is managed
thanks to a partnership
of the Vale Council, the
police and train opera-
tors. The resort has cre-
ated a family friendly
image, but questions
remain as to whether the
town and Island are
maximising their poten-
tial.A study, 'The Seaside
Tourist Industry in
England and Wales', by
researchers at
Sheffield's Hallam
University, indicated
that the town could do
more in creating
employment opportuni-
ties.Dr Ian Johnson,
Plaid's Vale Assembly
candidate, has called for
innovative ideas to be
considered so that Barry
can optimise the return
on any investment, and
generate local jobs.He said: "It is impor-
tant that we make effec-
tive use of Barry's natu-
ral attractions and
advantages."A recent survey of
UK coastal towns
showed Barry as the
Welsh tourist attraction
town with the fewest
number of full time jobs,
which is ridiculous
when you think of the
wonderful beaches and
coastline that we have
here locally."There are innovative
ideas being launched in
the town for developing
the Waterfront and
Barry Island - for exam-
ple, the Ysgol y Mor
idea."Under that proposal,
the local coastline
would become a hub for
organised and safe
water-based activitiesall year round, teaching
children about the sea,
as well as becoming an
activity-based holiday
camp for families."(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4)

Head-on collision after Barry man drove while 'unfit'

A MOTORIST had to be cut
from his car after a driver
under the influence of drugs
had been involved in a head-on
collision, Cardiff Crown Court
has heard.Charles Gaughan (20), a bakery
worker from Barry, was sentenced to
40 weeks' imprisonment, suspendedfor 18 months, ordered to carry out
240 hours unpaid work for the com-
munity, and was disqualified for two
years.He had pleaded guilty before Vale
Magistrates to driving while unfit
through drugs, possessing drugs with
intent to supply, and aggravated vehi-
cle taking and had been committed to
the Crown Court for sentence.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant wore red for Comic
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CUTS: 'There IS an alternative..'

IT was good to see many people turn up in London to campaign against the Con Dem

Government cuts; it is important that people speak up for public services and say No to these deep and savage cuts to jobs and services.

It seems the Conservatives and their Lib Dem allies have one answer to the financial crisis caused by greedy bankers, and that is to cut services – regardless of the impact and devastation it will cause to our society.

I believe that cuts to public services are not inevitable; they are really a political choice.

The Government claims it has no choice,

but there is an alternative – closing tax loopholes, taxing the banks and outrageous banker's bonuses, and slowing down these savage cuts to keep people in work.

The Government needs to change course; there really is an alternative, yet they are choosing to ignore it. Why?

Nearly half a million people from all walks of life, including doctors, nurses, teachers and firefighters took part in this protest against what the Government is doing, and rightly so.

Remember, Margaret Thatcher tried to cut her way out of a recession in 1979 and made the economic situation worse – and it looks like Cam and Clegg are going the same way. Please say no to the cuts!
Coun Richard Bertin, (Independent member, Vale of Glamorgan Council).

'Barry people's views ignored'

I WAS proud to be a part of the protest to rescue the Theatre Royal, Barry, on March 18; however, I was appalled when I read comments made by the managing director of Hafod, Robert Wathen.

He stated that: "The location is perfect for a development of this type."

If he actually lived in Barry, he would know this to be complete and utter nonsense!

Many have already pointed out that there are no spaces for car parking and that it is right next to the Savoy, where people tend to loiter and every now and then the odd fight breaks out.

Surely the Dock/Waterfront would

be a better location for the care home? The people of Barry are being disrespected and their opinions ignored.

In December, there was a public meeting at Barry Memorial Hall where Hafod revealed their plans for the site.

It was held four days before Christmas when there was snow everywhere – I'm not surprised it was "sparsely attended".

If this proposal goes through, then we have lost another facility! No wonder I always find myself on the train to Cardiff all of the time.

The planning committee should refuse permission for the extra care home to be built, but since most of them aren't actually from Barry, why should they care!

Michael James Moore (Documentary film student)

'Be more responsible'

I FEEL I have to respond to the recent GEM article about the young man who was refused a Jobseeker's allowance.

It seems his mother and four siblings live on state hand-outs, so why on earth is she having another child for us to keep?

If people can't or won't work, then they should be more responsible. They can go on the pill, which would cost them nothing, but would save this country a fortune.

Sally Dixon, Barry

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WARNING TO VALE COUNCIL TENANTS: 'THERE'S NO GOING BACK AFTER HOUSING TRANSFER'

THE vote for transfer from Vale Council to Heritage Coast Homes is now upon us and I would like to remind tenants that housing stock transfer is one way only. There will be no return to council-maintained homes if you are disappointed with the service.

Future tenants will not have the security of a local authority controlled home.

An internet search suggests rent and evictions invariably increase after stock transfer.

If there is a yes vote, land transferred to the private landlord could be subject to further development.

The Vale Council have a viable retention plan if tenants choose to stay with them.

They have £15 million in their housing revenue account and work would start on roofs

and guttering in 2011.

The updating of kitchens and bathrooms would start in 2012.

The council also offer many of the services that Heritage Coast Homes are offering, such as tackling anti-social behaviour.

Please think carefully before you use your vote – as there's no going back...

Trudi Watts, Barry

What about our Welsh farmers?

IN The GEM on March 24, Chris Franks AM praises the organisers and supporters of Fairtrade.

I feel it is a shame, and somewhat of a disgrace, that Mr Franks and the Fairtraders do not have any concern for the 310 Welsh dairy farmers who went out of business last year due to low milk prices.

According to an NFU report, the average cost of milk production is 29.1p per litre – but the average milk price is 25.94p per litre, a gap of 3.16p.

Furthermore, DEFRA

has forecast that dairy farms will suffer a 24 per cent fall in income for this year.

Perhaps Mr Franks will let readers of The GEM know of any concerns he may have for Welsh dairy farmers. Would he also inform us if the Chilean farmer's visit was funded by the Assembly and if there are any plans for AMs to visit foreign farms so that they may 'report back' on how Fairtrade is benefiting said farmers?

Anthony Bright, Penarth.

Fairweather parking checks!

WHY are the Cowbridge PCSOs and traffic wardens only coming out to do their job when the sun is shining and the weather is glorious?

This is when people park sensibly and don't mind walking. We never see them when it is raining and this is the time when people park anywhere and everywhere to avoid getting wet. (Name and address supplied)

Victims forgotten in the world today

DO prisoners have the right to vote? Absolutely not! By committing, and being found guilty of a crime against the law, a prisoner automatically gives up his 'rights'.

I, too, like to think I am a Christian. God made laws – the Ten Commandments are easy to follow. Laws are there to protect society; break them and you give up your rights. Talk to victims of crime about rights – these people are forgotten in our world today.

Mrs Bernie McLeer, Bridgend

'Dismayed at old town attitude'

I AM the Secretary of the Llantwit Chamber, main organisers of the Llantwit Major Victorian fair and Christmas lights event.

The Victorian Fair, to be held on June 18, will stretch throughout the town as normal, and I expect, as in previous years, it will be standing room only at the Square by 2pm!

The Christmas lights also stretch throughout the town, with the

switching-on ceremony by the shops, as in most other towns.

I am rather dismayed at the old town attitude of some of your readers. In my opinion, buildings do not make a town – people do; buildings do not make a community people do – and people are the heart of any good town.

From my personal experience, community spirit is alive and well in the whole of Llantwit Major, which is something we should all celebrate and be proud of.

Janet Moisan, Llantwit Major.

Vale MP hits back over viewpoint

IN last week's GEM, Mr Short asked my position on the UK's nuclear fleet.

I am a strong supporter of its replacement as an independent deterrent.

Political opponents also questioned how I can defend the closure of Barry Magistrates' Court and support the government's plan to reduce the nation's debt?

I can easily do so because there are other, better options.

The activity of Caerphilly court is much lower than Barry; it is closer to Cardiff and the town is much smaller than Barry.

This is why the Vale

Council is pursuing a Judicial Review.

I can also defend the decision to cancel the UK's largest ever PFI project for St Athan, Metrix, because I believe that the training Academy options being considered by the MoD (of which St Athan is a front runner), will be better value for money.

We cannot continue to spend money in a profligate way. Savings have to be made. Surely, it is wrong to spend £120M per day on interest on the nation's debt.

How many businesses, individuals or families could continue to borrow a quarter of all their expenditure? **Alun Cairns MP, Vale of Glamorgan**

YOU CAN NOW READ YOUR COPY OF THE GEM ONLINE:

Just visit: www.barry-today.co.uk,
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk or
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk

Town's landmark will be lost forever

IT is now approaching three years since Barry's Theatre Royal cinema screened its last film.

Hafod housing submitted plans for an extracare facility on the site in January this year, although their interest in this location appears to go back a lot further.

Those who have viewed the proposed plans will have seen that any recognition reflecting the cinema's 100-year standing has been cast aside in preference of demolition and redevelopment.

To add insult to injury, the facade of the new facility shown within the plans attempts to settle for a design resembling an old art deco theatre with a central tin-can like appearance,

rather than using the existing facade together with the wonderful front entrance floor mosaics.

The Theatre Royal, perhaps the most imposing name of all the cine-

mas Barry once had, even disappears in favour of a Woody Allen-esque satirical film title, Gollau Caredig (A Kind Light), perhaps emitting towards the conveniently-located funeral home opposite.

Comments from Mr Robert Wathen, Hafod's managing director, some months ago, such as "We welcome the opportunity to breathe new life into such a historical building and are keen to retain as much of its heritage as possible" and "We are not taking anything away", seem to be fantasy, akin to some of the Hollywood blockbuster story lines that once filled the Theatre Royal screens and entertained the town's community.

Suffice to say, you ARE taking something away from Barry. Lost forever will be a landmark building and everything it stood for in providing an amenity for all ages.

Paul Sutton (SOCA), Barry

Who sets the moral example?

THE predicament of a local job seeker (GEM report recently) raises some interesting points for discussion – the education system seems to be failing many pupils who are leaving school under-qualified or, even worse, illiterate.

Recent records show that Wales is the worst offender. Even if there was full employment,

businesses would be reluctant to employ these youngsters.

It is doubtful if benefit claimants have Swiss bank accounts, so their money is soon circulated back into the economy – unlike big corporations and captains of industry who squirrel millions away into offshore tax havens.

If the question is moral responsibility, let's see an example set from the top of the heap.

Tony Robinson, Barry.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK..

• WE reserve the right to edit all letters. Please keep them brief and address them to: The Editor, ggem@tindlenews.co.uk
Gem Newspapers Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7 7EL

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 07)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
31 Thur	05:27	8.5	18:51	8.7
01 Fri	07:08	8.9	19:23	9.0
02 Sat	07:46	9.2	20:02	9.2
03 Sun	08:14	9.3	20:33	9.3
04 Mon	08:49	9.6	21:06	9.4
05 Tues	09:19	9.5	21:34	9.4
06 Wed	09:50	9.3	22:03	9.3
07 Thur	10:19	9.3	22:33	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

'ENTERPRISE ZONE STATUS WOULD BOOST BARRY' – says local campaigner

BARRY could become one of the entrepreneurial growth centres of Wales if it gains 'enterprise zone' status, according to a local campaigner.

Paul Haley, the chairman of Pride in Barry, gave his support to a bid, arguing that the town had missed out on European funding because it was in "the apparently affluent Vale area".

He pointed out: "If Barry was a valleys town, it would have had several tens of millions of pounds of regeneration money."

"Instead, Barry has generated more money for the Assembly than it has received through its successful land sales."

"In my view, Barry with its proximity and links to Cardiff, and with its available brownfield

regeneration sites at the Waterfront, offers an opportunity for economic growth and return on investment if included within a new enterprise zone."

Twenty-one enterprise zones were announced by the Chancellor last week – with more to come.

The Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale, Angela Jones-Evans, said an enterprise zone would see lower taxes and discounted business rates to stimulate growth across the town.

She said she hoped to see a bidding process go ahead after the Welsh Assembly elections.

"The creation of a new enterprise zone for the whole of Barry would stimulate investment in the town and bring much needed jobs to the local community."

"The opportunity to successfully bid to become an enterprise zone is exactly what is needed to stimulate growth which would benefit both the town and surrounding areas of the Vale."

Local businesswoman Kath Bevan, the director of Barry-based driver training company, Professional Driver Services said she supported the enterprise initiative.

"If we are to keep the local economy thriving and employment opportunities high in Barry then business schemes like the enterprise zone will be essential."

"It would encourage business start-ups to take advantage of lower taxes and discounted business rates which in turn would help them continue to grow."

(See MP's column on page 8)

Rugby ladies' sponsored head shave for Macmillan

RIGHT: Barry Ravens rugby team

LOCAL ladies rugby club, the Barry Ravens, recently held a sponsored head shave with all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Lisa Jordan, organiser of the event, said: "Everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer and it is a charity very close to our hearts."

The total raised from the event, including a donation from Lisa's employer Legal and General, was the fantastic sum of £1,358.25.

Sue Pickin, fundraising manager for Macmillan said: "On behalf of everyone affected by cancer in the Vale, I would like to say a huge thank to the Barry Ravens for raising this wonderful amount of money."

"With new research showing that currently around 120,000 people are affected by cancer in Wales, and that this figure is set to double by 2030, our services are ever more vital."



MUMS' SERVICE

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth is holding a special family service on Mothering Sunday, April 3, at 10am.

The worship will include items suitable for all ages and there will be flowers for all mums and other ladies. Refreshments will be served afterwards; all are welcome.

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Sabzi Biryani (V)	£4.95
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Sabzi Masala (N) (V)	£4.50
Paneer Pasanda (N) (V)	£4.50
Sabzi Paneer Jalfrezi (V)	£4.50
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Barry must make the most of its potential

SAY LOCAL POLITICIANS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He added: "Another idea is to moor an old cruise-ship in the docks which could be used as a floating hotel and a home to other much needed facilities in Barry such as a cinema. "That would also have the advantage of leaving land on the Waterfront free for alternative developments.

Dr Johnson said the £9million Barry Regeneration Fund, which is provided by the Welsh Government, still has millions of pounds to invest in private sector or community businesses to help Barry's economic development.

With the arrival of lighter evenings and Easter not far off, businesses catering for the tourist and visitor market are preparing for what they hope will be another successful season.

But Pat Collins senior, whose family have

provided entertainment on the Island for four generations, said that to maintain progress the next phase of regeneration funding should provide a boost for the Island.

"We need an entertainment attraction that is part educational like Techniquet because that would bring back schools and children during the week."

He said any attraction should be at Nell's Point so that it spread the visitor interest along the front helping all Island businesses.

Mr Collins said that despite the Sheffield study he believed that in proportional terms the Island had a good record in generating employment.

"In terms of employment per square metre, I think the Island does very well, but you have to make a distinction between the Island and Barry town.

"The town is not a

tourist destination, there is no question about that. "In Porthcawl, the town is part of the destination but in Barry it is different."

The Vale's AM Jane Hutt pointed out that there had been significant improvements in Island infrastructure in recent years.

"More than £1million of Welsh Assembly Government funding was used to clear the Butlin's site and build the popular Coastwatch Centre.

"There has also been extensive investment in the railway with funding to replace the bridge over the line and more to come.

"There have been problems and concerns about the impact of visitors who head for the Island when the sun comes out too often parking in residential areas and abusing the environment.

"This has to be managed by the police and the Vale Council.

"The BARUC PACT group has played its part in controlling this, but we must be ready for the visitors who will be heading for the Island in the coming weeks."

CONSULTATION

She highlighted the granting of Blue Flag status for the Island and the publicity generated by the TV series Gavin and Stacey as recent positive factors, adding:

"I welcome the local consultation taking place with residents and traders about future prospects and opportunities for the Island to make sure it benefits from the Welsh Assembly Government Regeneration £9million funding to benefit the whole of Barry."

Angela Jones-Evans, Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale, said the Island had great potential for future success if the right conditions were in place.

She said: "Businesses have told me that what is needed is more good

quality, affordable family accommodation in the locality. I also believe that it is important to have a good mix of both indoor and outdoor activities for families so that they can be entertained on the rainy days that we get.

"In addition to this, we need to improve facilities, such as public toilets and beach facilities, which contribute towards creating a positive welcoming environment for visitors."

She added that electrification of the railway line to Cardiff, particularly if extended into the Vale, would also boost local tourism.

One untapped resource in the town remains the dock area in front of the Waterfront development.

Local councillor Chris Elmore said it was a source of frustration.

"It is a great shame that the dock is not being used at all and I feel it could be a truly excellent facility for water sports and supervised youth activities.

"I have always maintained that more leisure and tourism activities and services should be provided as part of the Waterfront development.

"A small section of the dock is used during the Waterfront festival every year so surely more long term facilities could be looked into."

The GEM understands that within the next year, Associated British Ports will allow water sports organisations to use the dock area.

In the long term, however, there seems to be no strategy for a resource that has so much potential.

The GEM approached ABP for a comment on the future use of the dock, but at the time of going to press had not received one.

Minister views regeneration in action at YMCA

DEPUTY Minister for housing and regeneration, Jocelyn Davies, last week visited Barry YMCA to see how the Welsh Government's regeneration area programme has provided much-needed community facilities in the building.

She was accompanied by members of the Regeneration Area Partnership Board, which makes recommendations on priorities and the allocation of funding for the regeneration area.

She saw the new climbing wall, the only

one in the UK with a pit fall which means that safety harnesses are not necessary.

The Minister then visited the newly extended studios of Bro Radio which, in partnership with the YMCA has received £130,000 for a digital media enterprise which provides training and volunteering opportunities for local people.

Ms Davies said: "I was very impressed with the projects I saw at the YMCA. Although both projects are in the same building, they are very different and offer a range of opportunities for the people of Barry to learn new skills, and to meet new friends while improving their health or broadening their experiences."

Welsh National Opera pays tribute to Barry-born tenor Robert Tear

OBITUARY

THE celebrated Barry-born tenor and conductor Robert Tear, who died on Tuesday, has been described as "an outstanding musician and formidably intelligent".

Mr Tear, a product of Barry Boys Grammar School, was world famous in operatic circles and awarded a CBE in 1984.

Russell Morton, the head of music at the Welsh National Opera, was keen to emphasise not only Mr Tear's talents, but his generosity to fellow colleagues. Bob Tear's outstanding musicianship and formidable

intelligence, together with his mischievous sense of humour, made him a total joy to work with.

"He was unfailingly generous to younger colleagues and musicians."

"Those of us who had the pleasure of working with Bob will miss him hugely."

Mr Tear was a choral scholar at King's College Cambridge, and later became an honorary fellow of the college. His operatic debut was in 1966 and he went on to appear at some of the world's most famous operatic

venues such as Covent Garden and Glynebourn.

His performances with the Welsh National opera included Salome in 1988, Billy Budd in 1998 and Eugene Onegin in 2004.

His conducting career began in 1985 in Minneapolis. He also contributed to 250 recordings worldwide.

Mr Tear was an honorary fellow of the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.

He died, aged 72, on Tuesday, March 29 due to cancer of the oesophagus.



The picture was taken during the Romilly Primary School's recent visit to Brace's Bakery in Crumlin.

ROMILLY PUPILS BECOME TOP BAKERS FOR THE DAY!

Pupils at Romilly Primary School enjoyed a field trip with a difference last week when they had a hands-on tour of Brace's Bakery in Pen-y-Fan, Crumlin.

The day out was part of a prize won by Romilly pupil Camille Danielson, who won Brace's annual Christmas competition to design a Christmas card, which was sent to all

Brace's business customers.

Fifty eight year-6 pupils had a tour of Brace's state-of-the-art bakery. They made bread in Brace's test bakery as well as 'using their loaf' during an interactive workshop and quiz with Lyn Jones, Brace's Primary School Visitor.

Rose Williams, one of the pupils who enjoyed the day, said: "I had an absolutely fantastic time learning about how bread is made. The detailed guide around the bakery was so interesting."

Cody Davies added: "I was amazed that the machines worked for themselves and how they worked so quickly. I also loved the presentation because now I know how to make bread and I can make it more often with my family."

'Tireless' RAFA worker honoured

AT the recent annual meeting of the Barry branch of the Royal Air Force Association, a presentation was made (top right) to Mr Arnold Close, who has been a tireless and invaluable worker for the branch.

For more than 30 years, he has held at various times the posts of secretary and treasurer. Arnold was presented with a certificate of appreciation and gift from the branch on his retirement as treasurer.

The president, FL Li David Crandon and the chairman, Mr Geoff Horton of Barry RAFA, paid tribute to Arnold during the presentation.

The branch has also been awarded a trophy from the RAFA Area (Wales, Midlands and south west region) for 'small branch efficiency' with membership of less than 150 members.

Pictured holding the Cup are Mr Howard Provis (branch secretary (on the left) and the vice-chairman, Mr Jim Coyle.



St Baruc's enjoy Red Nose Day

YSGOL Sant Baruc was full to the brim with crazy hairstyles and colourful outfits when the school recently collected money for the charity.

"We enjoyed red nose day themed activities and lessons throughout the day. Everyone agreed that the nursery and reception's cakes were delicious," a school spokesman said.

"We are pleased to say that we collected over £514.80 for the charity."

Diwrnod Trwynau Coch ROEDD yr ysgol yn



llawn dop o wallt gwall-go' a gwisgoedd lliwgar wrth i ni godi arian i'r elusen. Cawsom gyfle i fod yn rhan o wersi a gweithgareddau trwynau coch drwy gydol y dydd. Roedd pawb yn cytuno

fod cacennau'r dosbarth meithrin a'r derbyn yn hyfryd. Rydym yn falch i gyhoeddi ein bod wedi codi dros £514.80 i'r elusen. Dyma rhai o luniau o'r diwrnod.

We are now on Twitter - follow us @gem_news

CROWN COURT HEARS OF...

Woman's 'immense pain' after her partner bites off a third of her ear

A YOUNG mother had a third of her ear bitten off when her partner attacked her.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Samantha Thomas had 40 stitches put in the ear, and could suffer permanent disfigurement.

Justin Lloyd (37) unemployed, of Penarth, was jailed for three years four months after pleading guilty to causing

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

grievous bodily harm with intent.

Recorder Richard Twomlow said: "Miss Thomas is very conscious of the disfigurement. She is very nervous and has had to have counselling. This was a serious offence for which there must be a substantial sentence. You inflicted permanent disfigurement in a terrifying attack."

Prosecutor Gareth James said the two had been involved in a relationship for four years.

He said that Lloyd's personality could change when in drink.

On Saturday, November 13, he and friends watched a rugby match at his home and all drank.

Later he and Ms Thomas went to bed and everything appeared to be fine.

"In the early hours of the morning, he went into the spare room, and she could hear him shouting threats and punching the wall."

"He was shouting: 'I'm going to kill you, I'm going to destroy you.'"

The situation, said Mr James, spiralled out of control.

Lloyd grabbed her by the arms, took her to the spare room, pushed her onto the bed, pinned her down, spat at her and suddenly bit her left ear.

"She suffered immense pain, and there was a lot of blood. He also bit her face," said Mr James.

The woman's mother arrived at the house and found the defendant crying hysterically. She found a piece of the ear on the floor.

Ms Thomas was taken

to the University Hospital of Wales where a third of the ear was found to be missing and she was also treated for a bite mark on the cheek.

"Reconstructive surgery is being discussed, but there could be permanent disfigurement," said Mr James.

Lloyd's counsel, Jeremy Jenkins, said he admitted this was a very serious offence.

"The circumstances were bizarre. There was no build-up to the incident, and he is profoundly ashamed. To all intents and purposes, they were a happy couple. He once suffered a head injury which caused depression."

He said that he was not a misogynist in any way, and the incident was inexplicable.

"Sadly, he has lost what was most close to him," he said.

Driver's crash under the influence of drugs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that on November 20, Gaughan took his sister's Renault Clio car without her consent. As he drove through Barry, he attracted the attention of a police officer. He stopped at Barry

Railway station, but as the officer approached, he drove off at high speed.

Mr Andrew Riseborough was driving a Ford Focus. He saw the Renault hit a kerb, and then collided with him.

"Mr Riseborough was trapped and had to be cut out of the vehicle by the Fire Service. He suffered back and knee injuries and bit through his tongue and lip. His car was a write-off."

Gaughan was found to be in possession of skunk cannabis worth £1,130 on the street.

He admitted he didn't have a licence and said he was delivering the drugs on behalf of a friend.

He said he had been selling small amounts to friends and text messages on his mobile phone confirmed this.

Mr Trigg described him as a "small-time dealer".

He admitted to the police that earlier in the day he had been smoking cannabis which had "compromised his ability to drive."

Find us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/gemnews

Friends in get-together at Barry

THE Friends and neighbours group in Barry enjoyed a St Patrick's Day lunch recently.

Traditional Irish Stew with hot crusty bread was served, followed by dessert, and 26 members had a enjoyable afternoon.

The group meets at the Senior Health Shop in Holton Road on the third Wednesday in the month.

A spokeswoman said: "We used to have a open door policy, but the group has really grown since it was established last year. I never thought I would have a waiting list. For many of the members, it is their only way of meeting other people."

For more information, contact Gay Ffield on 01446 400044.

Keiran Molloy, defending, said: "He didn't prevaricate about the incident, and he was remorseful at the roadside. He said, 'Oh, what have I done, I've ruined my life'."

"Obviously, it has caused great upset in the family who have made him see the error of his ways. He acted rashly without any thought for the ramifications."

"He has not passed his test, and should not have taken that car. His grandfather is so ashamed of him, he won't speak to him."

Recorder Christopher Clee said: "It was a miracle the other driver didn't suffer more serious injuries. He had come within a whisper of going to prison."

Gaughan was also ordered to take an extended driving test.

Work starts on Thompson Street

A MAJOR part of the Welsh Assembly funded Barry regeneration plan has been the £1 million improvements approved for Thompson Street and work started last week.

Vale AM Jane Hutt commented: "With £1 million allocated to the regeneration of Thompson Street over the next year, the town centre will have the much-needed boost it requires."

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Mrs Sheila Westoll.

Family's tribute to widow (83) after collision

AN 83-year-old Barry woman has died following a collision on Broad St, Barry, shortly after 6.20pm on Saturday, March 12.

Pedestrian Mrs Sheila Westoll sustained serious injuries after she came into contact with a grey coloured

Volkswagen Passat driven by a 53-year-old man, travelling from the direction of Park Street.

Police are re-appealing for witnesses and are keen to speak to anyone who saw the collision, saw Mrs Westoll, or saw the vehicle being driven prior to the collision.

Mrs Westoll, who was a widow, mother of two, grandmother of five and a great-grandmother, died on March 25, and her family are being supported by a police family liaison officer.

They paid her the following tribute:

"We as a family have been devastated by this tragic incident. Sheila was a much loved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and

we will all miss her terribly. She was still an active character, and loved to walk around Cardiff and Barry almost daily.

"We would like to thank everyone for the kind support they have shown us at this difficult time, and would especially like to thank the staff at the Critical Care Unit at the University Hospital of Wales for their care and dedication in the days before our mother passed away."

• Anyone with information is asked to contact the roads policing unit on 01656 869332, 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

MP's surgeries

VALE MP Alun Cairns will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, April 1, at the following locations:

1.30pm - 3pm at the County Library, King Square, Barry.

4pm - 5.30pm at Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road, Rhose.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy, and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

SCHOOL'S DESIGN SUCCESS



STUDENTS from St Cyres School were presented with their certificates by Olympic Gold medal winning rower Rowley Douglas (far right) and triathlete and 2012 hopeful Lucy Chittenden (inside left), after being announced as runners-up in the Welsh regional final of GE's Design My Break competition. Also in the photo, above, are Daniel MacDonald, GE aviation apprentice, and Geraint Evans, GE compliance and business relations leader.

Their new uniforms bring nurses out in an itchy rash

NEW uniforms for nurses throughout Wales have caused some of them to come out in itchy rashes.

The new scrubs-type uniforms were launched within the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Trust on St David's Day, but staff at the Princess of Wales Hospital have contacted The GEM to say that many of them have come out in a rash.

Staff have been told to wash the uniforms three times at 60 degrees before wearing them, and if there's a problem to wash them again three times. If they still get a reaction, new uniforms will have to be ordered in a different material.

The new all-Wales uniform was introduced to end the confusion between hospitals having different types of uniforms. All staff of each grade in Wales will now wear the same uniform so that patients can immediately know who are staff nurses, sisters and other grades.

Although representatives of the Royal

College of Nurses were involved in the design of the uniform, some staff have complained that there is no front fastening, which means that soiled uniforms have to be taken off over the head instead of being unbuttoned or unzipped.

A spokesman for ABM Board said that they were aware that there had been some problems, but 'occupa-

tional health' has given clear instructions to nurses about how to deal with the reactions and the situation is being monitored.

A spokesman for the Welsh Government said that the roll out of new uniforms across Wales has been completed.

He went on: "The number of staff who have experienced a reaction to the new uniforms was

very small in comparison to the number of uniforms issued.

"However, more testing was undertaken on the uniforms to resolve the problems. Staff have been provided with clear guidance when they received their uniforms which include washing instructions to reduce the risk of a reaction."

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Putting baby in the swim

WITH 12 years' experience in teaching children to swim, qualified parent and baby instructors, Natalie O'Shea and Sarah Moignard recently launched parent and baby swimming lessons in the Vale.

Baby Splash has been running classes in Barry and Penarth since September 2010, but due to demand, these are extended to Rhose. Paediatric physiotherapist Natalie O'Shea of Baby Splash, said: "Our classes are energetic, fun and a good form of social interaction for both parent and child."

For more information, or to book a space on a course near you, contact Sarah on 07890 909498, or Natalie on 07921 122742, or email baby-splash@hotmail.co.uk

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ARMY VETERAN CARRIED OUT A £7,700 FRAUD

AN Army veteran who served in Iraq and Bosnia, defrauded the service of more than £7,700 – Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Lewis McGhan (24) who had been in the Welsh Guards, had put through fictitious claims for travelling expenses to receive medical treatment.

McGhan admitted six charges of fraud. He was jailed for 36 weeks, suspended for 18 months, and made subject to a supervision order for a year.

Recorder Christopher Clee said: "You in effect stole £7,000 from the army."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said the case was originally heard before

Aldershot magistrates and committed to Cardiff for sentence.

McGhan, he said, had been a serving Welsh Guard from 2004-2009, and was discharged with mental health problems.

The offences came to light as a result of his travelling expenses being queried.

He claimed he had travelled to the Coity Clinic, Bridgend. This was found to be incorrect.

An audit was carried out and it was discovered he had made false claims of travelling to London, Bristol, Yorkshire, and a hospital in Scotland.

"He simply made up the journeys."

McGhan, of Bridgend, later said he owed debts to cocaine

dealers and he wanted to keep them at bay.

He was said to have convictions for making off without paying at petrol stations and restaurants.

His counsel, Sarah Waters, said: "Effectively, this was a breach of trust. He has a background of mental health difficulties involving delusional thoughts."

When in the army, he had been regarded as a good soldier, but "things went horribly wrong".

She said the catalogue of offences had been caused by cocaine. He had the offer of a job in internet technology.

AJ SICLUNA

'Benefits system far from a soft touch' – says local woman

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

TWO weeks ago, a young Barry man told how he had been barred from receiving job seeker's allowance after receiving a 'sanction' by the Job Centre.

The story generated a number of responses from readers, some of which were published in our letters page. The majority were unsympathetic.

However, one woman got in touch not to comment on that specific case, but to make a particular point on the tougher benefits system.

Mrs Jo Cooper, from Rhosce, believes that because some people have "played the system" other genuine claimants are now suffering the consequences.

Mrs Cooper, aged 40, had worked since she was a teenager, despite suffering from a debilitating spinal problem.

"I suffered for many years with back problems and have sought medical advice over the years.

"In January 2009, my back gave out again. I had been doing cleaning work for a few years, as I thought physical work would help strengthen my back. Previously, I had done office work.

"When my back gave out again in January 2009, I went to the doctor again and this time they had no choice but to start doing tests on my back.

"I had no alternative but to give up my two jobs, as I could no longer physically work."

An x-ray and MRI scan revealed a degenerative disc disease.

Mrs Cooper said: "During this time, I contacted the benefits office to try and claim some type of benefit, due to the fact that physically, I could not work. I was eventually refused any sort of help."

Her back condition worsened and on August 20 last year she underwent major surgery – 'transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion'.

Mrs Cooper, who is in constant pain during her recovery period, explained: "I doubt whether I will be fit enough to go back to work until at least the end of the year – so until then, my husband and I will have to continue to struggle financially."

"I have been trying for more than two years to get help with some type of benefit, as it has been a real struggle with only my husband working."

"On two occasions, he has been out of work and we have managed on job seeker's allowance."

Like most couples Mrs Cooper and her husband

Steve, an electrician, have a mortgage and when he lost his job for a second time in 2010 last

October, they were concerned as to whether they could make ends meet. Fortunately, Mr Cooper is back in employment.

Mrs Cooper believed that she should have been eligible for 'incapacity benefit' or 'employment support allowance', but three tribunals told her the medical condition was not enough to qualify for support through benefits.

"I feel so utterly let down by the system. They are supposed to be there to help the genuine people who, through no fault of their own, need support and in the two years I've been unable to work, I've had no help or support from anybody."

Mrs Cooper added that she believed the system was now so protective of benefits, genuine claimants were being disallowed.

ROADWORKS REPORT

Arcof Street/Plassey Street/Queens Road, Penarth – temporary traffic control to allow construction of a new cycleway.

Thompson Street, Barry – temporary traffic control to allow for regeneration work.

AM and council ponder question... Is traffic flow at Merrie Harrier junction better?

by TIM CHAPMAN

AN Assembly member has disputed claims that changes made at the Merrie Harrier junction at Llandough have led to improvements in traffic flow.

Regional AM Chris Franks wrote to the Vale Council earlier this year after a constituent contacted him raising serious concerns about the way the newly configured junction was operating.

However, Mr Franks said he welcomed the assurance from Vale cabinet member Coun Geoff Cox that the authority intended to gather information at the junction with a view to considering what other options might be available to improve highway safety.

But Mr Franks insisted traffic flow could be improved: "The council argues that the refurbishment of the traffic signals at the junction has led to more efficient flow of traffic."

"But according to residents, queues have worsened and they don't

just happen in the morning and evening rush hours. That is also my experience.

"The resident who raised this issue with me has suggested that timing changes to the lights would ease traffic flow and pointed to a report about action taken in London on a heavily congested junction which had led to significant improvement. That option is certainly worth exploring."

Mr Franks said that a junction camera would also stop motorists approaching the junction on their way to Cardiff going through the traffic lights on red.

Coun Geoff Cox, the Vale cabinet member for visible and building services, explained that the junction equipment was designed to effect a smooth flow of traffic, and be safe.

"The new traffic signal equipment that has been installed at the Merrie Harrier junction includes the MOVA system which is reactive to

demands created by queuing traffic.

"This makes the junction operate in a more efficient way and therefore increases the through flow of vehicles."

"The traffic signals have been monitored since their introduction and have been adjusted to make them as efficient as possible, bearing in mind the demands from traffic approaching the junction from all directions and the physical limitations of the site."

On the question of people 'jumping' red lights, Coun Cox said it was being investigated and any evidence would be examined.

"In addition to the new traffic signal equipment, the junction also now includes an additional pelican crossing

which improves pedestrian safety.

"The safe operation of the junction, in particular the possibility of vehicles travelling through on red lights, is still being investigated and any evidence collected."

"This information will inform any future decisions regarding the need for greater enforcement at this location."

"We will also further investigate the claims made that traffic queues have worsened as this should not be the case."

He emphasised: "The new signals should control the traffic flow much better. However this needs to be balanced around the ever-increasing numbers of vehicles on our roads."

"Survey work will continue at this junction in order to gather further information on vehicle movements and flows."

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Dyffryn House will open to public again – when the £600,000 facelift is complete!

A TOTAL of £600,000 of Lottery cash will restore the interior of Dyffryn House – and reopen the building to the public for the first time in 15 years.

The money awarded to the Vale Council will fund the restoration of the main rooms of the Grade II listed house designed in the late-Victorian period in French Renaissance and English Baroque styles.

The cash has been made available through a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant.

The work will return the interiors to their former glory and open them up for visitors to enjoy for the first time since the house closed to the public in 1996.

The grant will also be used to fund the employment of an interpretation and learning officer and provide a programme of training opportunities for local volunteers.

The aim is to make the three-storey mansion, built by coal tycoon John Cory in 1893 and considered to be one of the most important houses of its period, a focal point within the gardens once again and create a major tourism and community attraction.

The chair of HLF in Wales, Dan Clayton Jones, said: "Heritage-based tourism has never been so important to Wales' economy and as such, we've made this award as part of our continued investment in its development for the benefit of the people in Wales.

"This award is the final piece in the jigsaw of the restoration project at Dyffryn.

"The house is one of the most important to have survived from the period and reflects the enormous wealth amassed by John Cory, more than 100 years ago.

"We are delighted that the HLF grant will reopen the house and



ABOVE: One of the rooms in Dyffryn House that will be restored for public viewing.

reunite it once more with the gardens, as it was originally designed, creating one fantastic space for visitors to enjoy.

"What's more, this project is creating opportunities for local people to get involved in heritage, learn new skills and play their part in taking history into the future."

In 1997 and 2005, HLF awarded the 55-acre Dyffryn Gardens a total of more than £6.15m to restore the gardens' features and landscapes.

The gardens currently attract 52,000 visitors a year and are regularly used for events. The council hopes the reopening of the house will double visitor numbers within 10 years.

The Minister for Heritage, Alun Ffred Jones, said: "I'm delighted that my officials in Cadw were able to offer a grant in 2009 towards the restoration of the principal rooms, and I am glad that they and the HLF are able to work together in this way."

There is currently a regular 25-strong group

researchers, period flower arrangers and tour guides in full Edwardian costume, to really bring the history of the house to life.

The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012 and a series of events, activities, exhibitions and school visits are planned to take place.

Coun Rhodri Traherne, cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, said:

"Bringing the house back into use as part of the visitor experience at Dyffryn will be a significant development in making this an important heritage destination, benefiting not only Dyffryn, but the region as a whole."

Geraldine Donovan, the site curator, added: "Throughout the restoration, there will be opportunities for the community to become involved, either as volunteers or as observers of the project."

"Our first volunteer open day is May 5 and, from the interest expressed so far by both friends and the community, we are confident that we will attract the new house volunteers which are essential to the project's success."

Post Office seeks a new postmaster for Wick

THE Vale MP has expressed disappointment that the Wick Village Shop will be closed from the end of this month and that the Post Office is searching for an alternative site for the Post Office facility in the village.

Mr Alun Cairns said that unfortunately, the proprietors of Wick Post Office have chosen not to continue providing the service.

The current sub-postmaster has resigned from post and is selling the village shop premises, as a result of which the

Post Office must close temporarily from March 30.

Post Office Ltd has re-assured Mr Cairns that it is their intention to keep a Post Office service in Wick.

The Vale MP said: "I was sorry to hear that the village shop will be closing at the end of this month, particularly after we'd worked hard last year in securing a reduction in business rates for the rural premises."

"I contacted the Post Office and will work with them to find a new sub-postmaster," he promised.

THE VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'Let Barry be Wales' first enterprise zone'

IN last week's budget the UK government announced the creation of 21 new Enterprise Zones for England.

In Wales, we're calling on the WAG to deliver the same exciting and innovative programme here in Wales and I have asked for Barry to become the first such location.

The zones will be centres for new businesses and jobs in parts of Britain that missed out in the last ten years, where taxes will be even lower and more restrictions on economic growth removed.

They will be in places with high growth potential – but which need that extra push from government and local communities working together.

Millions of pounds have been spent in west Wales and the valleys in recent years from Objective-1 funding.

This funding has sought to promote the economy in these regions due to the decline of coal and steel production.

Barry, as a port town that used to export coal and steel, has experienced the same decline, but so far has not



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

received the same monetary support as the valleys have.

The decision to introduce enterprise zones by the government is exciting, though here in Wales the decision is not automatic and will be up to Welsh Assembly Government.

The Secretary of State for Wales, Cheryl Gillan, is working with WAG to deliver similar zones in Wales, and I'm championing the cause to ensure that Barry becomes the first enterprise zone in Wales.

The Government's range of policy tools available to the enterprise zones, include a 100 per cent business rate

discount worth up to £275,000 over five years for businesses that move into an Enterprise Zone during the course of this Parliament.

This is great news for traders to help further rejuvenate our shopping areas and for other businesses along the docks and elsewhere in the town.

In addition, support to ensure superfast broadband is rolled out across the zone will be provided. This will be achieved through guaranteeing the most supportive planning environment and, if necessary, public funding. Government and local authority help will also be developed to simplify planning approaches.

As part of the Government's plan for growth – which also includes lower business taxes; less red tape and fewer regulators; enhanced access to finance; better business support; streamlined planning rules and more support for apprenticeships – the new enterprise zone will provide a real boost to growth for jobs in Barry and the wider Vale community.

But we must first of all secure agreement from WAG to introduce such zones for Wales.

Six ride out in Llancarfan!



SIX children from Llancarfan Primary School – Mali Ford, Alex Griffiths, Libby Williams, Evie Williams, Max Cunningham and Sam Gammon – recently took part in a sponsored

cycle for Red Nose Day to cycle 12 miles in less than three hours.

"They did it, and in a time of one hour, 55 minutes! Mums were feeding them sweets and biscuits to keep them cycling and as they pedalled through the finish

line in the village there were some very tired legs!

"They raised £343 for a great cause. Well done to everyone, we are all very proud of you and many thanks to all sponsors in the village and school!" a spokeswoman said.

Cakes and Sumo wrestling – all in the name of charity!



Young people based at Barry Fire Station wrestling match against the staff at the managed to raise £60.30 for Comic Relief pupil referral unit. The young people had a on Friday, when they decorated cakes and fantastic day and it was all for a good held a raffle. "They then had a Sumo cause," a spokeswoman reported.

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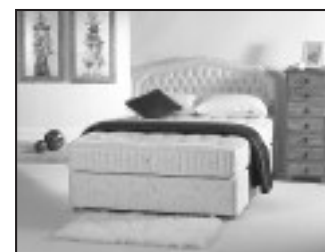
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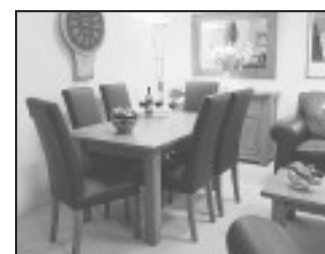
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TRADERS WELCOME NEXT PHASE OF REGENERATION TO TOWN CENTRE

PLANS to revamp part of Bridgend town centre under the next phase of regeneration have been welcomed by traders.

by JAYNE ISAAC

Bridgend's cabinet has approved proposals to turn upper Nolton Street one way, with traffic entering the town from the Cowbridge Road traffic lights. The one-way system will extend as far as the junction with Merthyr Mawr Road.

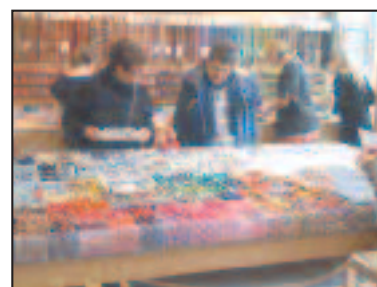
In their report, officers stated that making the street one-way will mean that pavements can be widened and parking and unloading bays created.

At the moment, the street has double yellow lines on both sides, which prevents motorists from parking near businesses along the street.

Lorries also have to block the road when they are unloading, causing traffic hold ups.

In the report to cabinet, officers stated that it was planned to create the parking and unloading bays and bring in limited waiting for motorists to boost trade at this end of town.

It says: "Not only should this help prevent the sort of obstructive loading and unloading which currently occurs along this road but it should provide the ability to introduce on-street limited waiting which should give a significant boost to trade in this area encouraging new and existing businesses to develop and attract new investment."



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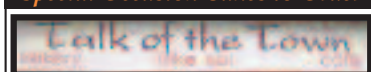


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APPROACHING BRIDGEND...

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WHAT THE TRADERS SAY...

Felicity Ladbrooke, who owns the Felicity's shoe, bag and jewellery shop at the junction of Brackla Street and Noltton Street, welcomed the news.

"It's great that something is being done to make it easier for people to get to our shops. Having limited waiting means that people will be able to park and just pop to the one shop they want to visit," she said.

"We need to work to make Bridgend a shopper-friendly environment and also make it easy for people to get into town in their cars."

Ms Ladbrooke said that she had been in busi-

ness at that site for 30 years and had full confidence in Bridgend.

"We recently invested a lot of money in upgrading the shop," she said. "Bridgend has a lot to offer. We have some fantastic shops but there is still potential for improvement and we would welcome any new businesses that open."

"People need plenty of choice in any town and the more shops we can offer, the better for all of us. This scheme should help to transform the upper end of Noltton Street and breathe new life into it."

Vicky Perks, who runs the Seren health shop in Noltton Street, is a former president of the chamber of trade and is now with the Bridgend Business Forum which has been consulted about the proposals.

"These changes will improve the flow of traffic into town and make access easier," she said. "Anything which makes it easier for people to get in here and then park is good for trade."

She said that traders had campaigned for the £1 parking fee on Wednesdays which was now up and running and they were hoping that this could be extended.

"A lot of what's happening now is what we have been fighting for over many years and it's good that the council have listened and taken on board some of our views."

"We have some cracking shops in town and promoting the upper end of Noltton Street will only add to the mix for shoppers."

Asda, which is located behind upper Noltton Street, has already brought people into that end of Bridgend especially as they can use the car park free for up to three hours.

Traders say that many people shopping at the store also take the chance to come into town and having a supermarket in the town centre rather than on an out of town site like most of the others has produced valuable spin-off for them.

Upper Noltton Street has a mix of businesses at the moment including an art gallery which sells works by local artists and an antique shop. There are also a number of shops providing services like hairdressing and fast food.

But in the past, the street had a number of prestigious businesses including the Roses gown shop which drew people from a wide area.

Traders hope that these proposals will help recreate that shopping environment and attract new businesses to that part of town.

The revamp, which is part of a £9m scheme, will include new pavements and street furniture to enhance the appearance of the whole area.

Linked to this part of Bridgend is the small cluster of shops in Ewenny Road, near the Five Bells. Traders there are hoping that if more shoppers are drawn to Upper Noltton Street, they will make the short hop across Cowbridge Road to reach their premises.

Several businesses have opened up in the former Terry Refell plumbing showroom and other businesses in that part of town include double glazing, an interior design shop and a jewellery business, again with potential for other businesses to open up.

It would be true to say that until now, the regeneration has been concentrated in the core part of Bridgend town centre but this additional money means that the peripheral areas around that core can also benefit and prosper.

The nearest village to that part of Bridgend – travelling south along Ewenny Road – is Ewenny itself, which has its own businesses including two potteries, pine furniture shop, nursery and a dress shop and hair salon, which draws its customers from a wide area.



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Johnson's Faster takes you on a slow road to mediocrity!

SINCE swapping the span-dex for the big screen, Dwayne Johnson has made a decent fist of being a movie star.

Having taken his wrestling persona into the world of action with the likes of *Welcome To The Jungle* and *Walking Tall* (an underrated movie), Johnson then tried his luck, with varying success, in the cut throat world of the family film.

Now, having exhausted that world, Johnson returns to action with the fifth instalment of the *Fast and Furious* franchise next month, and this week in (no relation) *Faster*.

Johnson plays Driver, a recently-released felon out to avenge his brother's death after they were double crossed during a heist; however, Driver is being chased by a veteran cop (Billy Bob Thornton) and an eccentric hitman (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) who both want to get hold of him before he can unleash hell...

A pared-down narrative, simplistic characters with names like

Driver, Cop and Killer, and an over-reaching sense of familiarity that has much to do with those trashy B-movies from the 1970s, it's very clear to see what *Faster* is trying to achieve.

If handled with a degree of class and sophistication, then it can supersede its origins, to be something far more engaging and substantial; sadly, this isn't the case here.

Instead, you're left with the most pared-down of films that rarely offers you anything and as such makes for something of an inauspicious return to adult fare for Dwayne Johnson.

While he has proved since his transition from wrestling ring to film set that he has the charisma and physical presence to make for an engaging and tough actor, he gets very little opportunity to flex his acting muscles here.

This is a performance that hinges purely on Johnson fighting and killing his way through the people responsible for the death of his brother, and while it aims for a *Death Wish* vibe, Johnson is certainly no Charles Bronson.

While he handles the physical side of things with hard-hitting style, the largely dialogue-free performance is hardly

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

the shining turn he has previously offered up.

Old hand Billy Bob Thornton should be far too good for films of this ilk, but while he's here he doesn't slum it, instead delivering a solid turn as Cop, one that is given a degree of depth thanks to the script.

Thornton is always watchable, and his sad-sack detective, again while hardly original or career-best, isn't a woeful performance by any means.

The most intriguing character and performance is Oliver Jackson-Cohen, as a multi-millionaire hitman doing jobs purely for the adrenaline rush. Afforded an interesting back story, and matched with a solid performance from the British actor,

Killer shines as the brightest character here.

Director George Tillman Jr certainly knows his way around a genre picture, given the stylistic ties that he offers here, the muscle cars, open roads and action sequences all holding a debt to their forbearers; but beyond that the direction is weak, lacking the pace the title suggests and feeling tired.

While his outing in the next *Fast and Furious* outing may well put Johnson back in the action saddle, *Faster* certainly won't. Johnson is better than material like this and can certainly offer more than is on show – consider this to be merely a warm-up for the big man's next assault on the action genre.

VERDICT – A mundane action film that demands little but gives less back, *Faster* is perfunctory brainless entertainment that has a few moments, but by and large trundles along at a mediocre pace.

Only Oliver Jackson-Cohen's quirky turn resonates and the end result is far from essential viewing. *Poor*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Death Wish*, *Shoot 'Em Up*.

Faster is on general release now.



PUPILS AND STAFF SEE RED ON COMIC RELIEF DAY...

PUPILS and staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant celebrated Comic Relief Day when they all wore red and made a donation towards the appeal.

Pupils who attend the after-school club also prepared cakes which they sold to parents and

children. In total the school donated £230.

Local AM Jane Hutt presented certificates to the 'Pupils of the Week' during the morning assembly and was entertained by the school choir.

Bu Mrs Jane Hutt ar ymweliad ag Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant yn ddiweddar er mwyn dathlu

'Diwrnod Comic Relief'. Roedd yr ysgol gyfan wedi gwisgo mewn coch ac roedd lluo o weithgareddau diddorol yn digwydd yn ystod y dydd er mwyn codi arian. Caghydd £230 ar gyfer yr apel.

Cyflwynodd Mrs Hutt dystys-grifau i Ddisgyblion yr Wythnos yn ystod y gwasanaeth a chafodd ei dddanu gan gor yr ysgol.



LEFT: Winner Charlotte Martin, with Royal Mail delivery office manager, Paul Daniels, and postman, Philip Ansell (with glasses) and Charlotte's teacher, Kim Freeman.

Charlotte (9) puts her stamp on a first class writing prize

LLANCARFAN schoolgirl Charlotte Martin was awarded first prize in the Welsh final of Royal Mail's Young Letter Writer Competition 2011.

The theme for this year's competition was children's favourite books – a subject celebrated by Royal Mail through a set of stamps featuring AA Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.

Charlotte (9), from Llanccarfarn Primary School, impressed the judges with her letter about Silky

the Fairy and the Land of Cupcakes.

Judge Val Boddan, Royal Mail Media Relations manager, said: "All the letters demonstrated real imagination. Charlotte's letter was particularly fun to read and she put her own stamp on the story. It was a delight to read her creativity in action."

Charlotte receives a £50 book token and a set of personalised Smilers® stamps featuring her own favourite photograph. She also receives a pack of letter writing goodies to share with her classmates.

Walk for Life raises £1,000



MORE than 70 local people, including the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, joined the Kidney

Wales Barry Walk for Life on Sunday morning, walking from Morrisons car park down Broad Street to the Knap and back, to raise over £1,000 for kidney research and patient care in Wales.

Organised by Debbie Baker, the annual Barry Walk for Life was enjoyed by all those who joined in, with children and dogs taking part as well.

ABOVE: Debbie Baker and Barry Walk for Life supporters in Morrisons car park, before setting off on their walk.

The AM commented: "This is such an important annual event, with walks taking place all over Wales raising funds and awareness about the importance of improving patient care and research to eradicate kidney disease which affects so many

families – including many on the Barry Walk for Life. "We got a good response from passers-by and the sponsorship raised over £1,000, which is a great contribution to vital funds for Kidney Wales," she reported.

Charity cheque

ELINOR HILLMAN – support worker for Action for Children, Barry and the Vale, received a cheque for £110 raised through the Christmas tree memorial tags and memorial carol service with A G Adams & Son, Funeral Directors, Barry.

Foster carers praised for their dedication

THE care and devotion given to children by Vale foster carers won warm praise recently from Vale AM Jane Hutt at a meeting held at the HUB in Barry to discuss SNAP (Special Needs Advisory Service).

Two foster carers, Jeff and Myra Phillips, are retiring after 46 years of service so there was a particular "thank you" for all the care they have given, recognised in the honours list when the couple both received the MBE.

The AM commented: "The unstinting care and commitment given

by foster carers like Jeff and Myra Phillips who have given 46 years of dedicated service to our children and young people who need that care is remarkable.

"They have changed the life chances and opportunities of so many children and as a society we owe so much to them."

School council grill regional AM

LOCAL pupils quizzed Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks when St Andrew's Church in Wales school council during a visit to the National Assembly in Cardiff Bay.

Mr Franks, a former governor of the Dinas Powys school, said: "As a Dinas Powys resident, it was a pleasure to meet St Andrew's school council.

"I was quizzed with some tough questions from the schoolchildren. I highlighted the difference there would be after the Welsh general

election on May 5 now laws that only apply to Wales will be made in Wales by the National Assembly.

"I hope that the pupils and teachers enjoyed their visit and will come again to see the workings of Welsh democracy in the future," he concluded.

GROUP'S MEETING

BARRY and the Vale Osteoporosis support group will meet in the Mary Lennox Room in Barry Hospital on Wednesday, April 6 from 2pm to 4pm.

The speakers will be Dr Jane Turton and Sister Rosamund Broadbent from the Bone Research Unit at Llandough Hospital, Penarth.

New members or visitors would be most welcome. For enquiries, telephone 01792 881767.

Ty Hafan draw

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D623.

● The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 7078069.

● £10: 568069, 222582, 178703, 123606, 618751, 244825, 947014, 236138, 254426, 653386.

725355, 882983, 134566, 357450, 743665, 884777, 530136, 182518, 528023, 572018.

● £5: 601960, 393974, 686762, 697220, 837209, 188241, 412513, 896595, 156884, 805317, 126891, 395838, 711240, 208557, 468305.

389817, 686155, 313533, 784382, 495106, 130953, 294716, 337508, 700976, 558534, 671730, 835954, 709630, 339479, 664889, 369729, 752876, 141260, 568938, 853045, 194349, 475410, 140826, 805834, 623784, 402767, 862264, 771168, 497971, 984595, 500894, 572084, 345715, 558984, 395369, 120387, 626500, 408816, 104471, 243614, 611284, 445985, 573742, 888478, 445690.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Out and About with The GEM

Musicals stamp GEM winners

THE winners of our recent musicals stamp competition were:

Stephen Huxter, Barry; Jean M Chick, Penarth; E O Coles, Dinas Powys; Mrs G R Williams, Pyle; Linda J Pike, Porthcawl; Gwyneth Lewis, St Brides Major; Margaret Lamb, Cowbridge; Shan Llewellyn, Coychurch; Mrs A King, Pencoe; Mrs T Sobey, Bridgend; Mrs B Burden, Llantwit Major; Mrs M Bradshaw, Cowbridge; Mrs C Evans, Cwmbran; Mr A Grainger, Dinas Powys; W E Dunn, Sully; Mrs L Cox, Barry; Mr Chris Spear, Penarth; Mr Lyndon Thomas, Pyle; Wilma Smith, Porthcawl and P Jones, Cowbridge.

Congratulations to you all. Watch out for more great GEM competitions!

OCEAN LOUNGE

PORKKERRY
OPEN:
SATURDAY & SUNDAY LUNCHTIMES
FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday, 2nd April
DAVE MONROE (vocalist)
Plus BINGO

Saturday, 9th April
BOBBY LEE RAY (vocalist)
Plus BINGO

Saturday, 16th April
GREG COLLINS (vocalist)
Plus BINGO

SUNDAY ROAST £6.95
in the Ocean Lounge Bar
Booking Advisable

Bookings now being taken for MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, April 3rd
3 course meal - £9.95
plus pianist/violin
Booking highly recommended

CAR BOOT SALE
EVERY SUNDAY from 2pm
To find us - click directions@
www.finejoust.com

Tel. 01446 710362/711538

Eye Candy Boutique

Celebrate their First Anniversary on Saturday 2nd April

and would like to invite you to come and view their Spring/Summer collections.

Enjoy Complimentary drinks and 10% off all purchases.

Stockists of:
• Lisa Jayne Dann
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An invitation to you...

WHAT'S ON/ IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA

Art society exhibition

ON April 2, Porthcawl Art Society will be opening its Spring Exhibition.

Categories will be oil or acrylic, sketching or pastel. This will be in conjunction with a coffee morning (10.30am until noon).

Porthcawl Art Society will also be holding a sale of art material, new and second hand.

This will take place from April 14-16, 10.30am - 4pm. Both events are in the society's rooms, above Porthcawl Museum, John Street.

Photo display

BARRY at Work and Play, a pictorial exhibition by Tom Clemett, will be held from April 4 to May 8 at The Room in the Park, Victoria Park, Cadoxton, Barry (10am-4pm).

Admission free. Walkways

ON Sunday, April 3 at 2.30pm 'Up the Ely Valley' starting from St Peter's Church,

Peterston-super-Ely (reference ST 08374); contact 07854 526117 (Phil).

On Thursday, April 7 at 1.30pm, Cosmeston Lakes and countryside, starting at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park; contact 07765 432676 (Babs).

On Sunday, April 10 at 1.45pm, New Beaupre circular, starting outside the church in St Hilary; contact 01446 749000 (Di and Lynda).

Question time

PENDOYLAN Community Council hosts a meeting with

candidates standing for the Vale seat in the forthcoming Assembly election, in Pendoylan War Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on April 5.

Participants include: Jane Hutt - Labour; Ian Johnson - Plaid Cymru; Damien Chick - Liberal Democrat; Angela Jones-Evans - Conservative.

Art society

ON Thursday, April 7 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes back Sue McDonagh, well-known local artist, who will be giving a demonstration using pastels.

Non members welcome.

Hospital for animals

THE Brooke Hospital for Animals (Vale of Glamorgan Supporters' Group) will hold a coffee morning on Wednesday, April 13 at 10.30am in Llantrithyd House, Llantrithyd, near Cowbridge.

Entry £3, including coffee and biscuits: home produce, cake stall, raffle; by permission of Mr and Mrs Paul Dolan.

Proceeds to Brooke Hospital for Animals.

Contact Alex Rees 01446 781286 or Joy Rees 01446 781955.

Free Welsh courses

'Ti a Fi' parent toddler groups in Bridgend are offering six-week basic

Welsh language courses for free!

The course is called Cymraeg o'r Crud (Welsh from the cradle) and is a special taster course for parents of babies 0-11 months old (but it is popular with older siblings as well!).

The course is organised by MYM in partnership with Cymraeg i Oedolion/Welsh for Adults.

Call Lou Stevens-Jones on 07966 321764 for details: the course is free; entry to the Ti a Fi groups ranges from £1 to £1.50 per family, including refreshments for all.

Dyspraxia support

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, April 4 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holt Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD and

Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsg.org.uk.

It also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

TW

Air society's talk

WHAT causes the weather? David Ephraim will be explaining, in his talk 'Pilot's Weather' at the next meeting of Penarth Aviation Society on Friday, April 1.

Familiar as one is with terms like 'low pressure' and 'high pressure', and tapping the barometer and blaming the BBC forecasters for

getting it wrong, few of us can make much of an educated guess about what's likely to happen.

As an experienced glider pilot who needs to know what weather he is flying into, David Ephraim will be passing on some useful information.

Penarth Aviation Society meets on the first Friday of every month in Penarth Conservative Club at 7.45pm for 8pm. Visitors are welcome.

Toy fair comes to Penarth

FOLLOWING the success of the very first Cardiff show in January, the second great event (of four per year) is taking place at the same venue in Penarth on Saturday, April 2.

The toy and train sale will operate from 10.30am until 3pm and a large number of traders have already booked their tables ensuring that this is a major show and one of the largest of its type in Wales.

There is ease of access to the venue from all directions, good parking and an excellent

caterer which helps to make this a very special fair. There is the added bonus of a busy railway line virtually alongside the venue with Cogan Station a few steps from the toy fair.

There is also a local bus service, while those arriving by car can reach the venue easily from both Cardiff, and from J33 on the M4.

A wide range of traders are taking part, with many specialists in model railways, dioramas, tin toys, plus books and other associated material.

Such famous names as Hornby, Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, Tri-ang,

Britains, Wrenn, Lima, Bachmann and many more will be on sale and it should not be forgotten that the stall-holders are also very happy to buy and to exchange, as well as selling.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Our customers should raid their cup-

boards and attics and bring along any surplus items; they might have greater value than they thought."

For more information, call 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; website www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

GREAT NEW SHOW... CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE

SATURDAY, 2nd APRIL, 2011
10.30am - 3.00pm
Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Penarth, Cardiff CF64 2NS
Travel by train - Cogan Station next to Venue!
BUY ★ SELL ★ EXCHANGE
Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Lledo, Britains, Hornby Trains, Bachmann, Lima, etc. and much, much more - 80 plus tables
Admission £1.50 - Child/OAP £1.00
Enquiries: 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
E-Mail: dyer@minehead46.freemove.co.uk
Website: chrisdyerfairs.co.uk
Promoted by Chris Dyer, Minehead, Somerset, UK

JUNE DAY PSYCHIC FAYRE

Top International Clairvoyants will be available for private readings all day and night
Tuesday 5th April, 2011
The Ship Hotel
Harbour Road, BARRY CF62 5SB.
A day of Tarot, Psychometry, Clairvoyance, etc.
Books • Crystals • Tarot Cards all on sale
Doors open 1-5pm; re-open 6-10pm.
Admission £2.50
Enquiries Tel: 0777 597 2998

Local well-established organiser urgently requires
HOST FAMILIES FOR SHORT TERM FOREIGN STUDENTS
during the Spring and Summer in the Vale of Glamorgan.
Tel: Louise Jones on 02920 215158

Mount Sorrel Hotel

Saturday, 23rd April
Michael Bublé Tribute
2 Course Buffet
Breaded chicken, home baked carved ham, salads, seasonal desserts and more
plus Disco til 2am - £22

More Tribute and Themed Nights
June 18th, August 20, October 29th, November 26th
Please call for details

Mother's Day
Sunday 3rd April
Traditional Sunday Roast
Three Courses £17.50
Free Gift for Mum
Booking Essential

PORKKERRY ROAD, BARRY
www.bw-mountsorrelhotel.co.uk
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Jazz on the Sands
Bank Holiday Easter Weekend
22-25 April 2011
Bring the family
Buddy Greco • Syd Lawrence Orchestra
Jacqui Dankworth • Jiggs Whigham
National Youth Jazz Orchestra
and many, many more
Stroller tickets £5 (under 12s FREE)
www.porthcawl-jazz-festival.com
Tel: 01656 815995

THE BARRY SAILOR WHO WON A RARE GALLANTRY AWARD

Local military historian and headteacher of St Cyres Comprehensive School, Dr Jonathan Hicks, tells the story of one Barry man's courage during the First World War.

The recent award of an Australian Victoria Cross to an Australian soldier serving in Afghanistan prompted me to look back at my records of local men who won gallantry awards during the two world wars of the last century.

The Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (CGM) was instituted in 1855. It was made of silver with a white ribbon with dark blue edges (RN) or sky blue (RAF). The obverse was an effigy of the reigning monarch and the reverse had the words 'FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY' in three lines within a crowned laurel wreath.

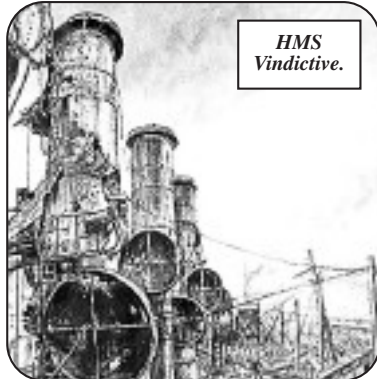
Conceived as the naval counterpart to the DCM, it was instituted for award to petty officers and seamen of the Royal Navy. It ranks as one the rarest decorations – only 110 being issued during the reign of George V.

In October 1918, a large gathering of people assembled at the Theatre Royal in Barry to witness the presentation of the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal to Leading Seaman David George Rees, Royal Navy, the son of Mr and Mrs D Rees of 'Socotra', Tynewydd Road, Barry.

Colonel J A Hughes,



Leading Seaman David G Rees.



HMS Vindictive.

in the course of his remarks, stated that the medal had been awarded to Rees on account of his brave and gallant conduct in the recent raids on Ostend.

While acting as coxswain, Rees steered motor launch 254 alongside the *Vindictive*, which was being sunk to block the harbour, and succeeded in carrying off the crew.

He held the launch alongside in a most intrepid manner and the survivors of the *Vindictive* attributed their rescue entirely to his skill and pluck. As the small craft was being steered back amid a hail of bullets, officers and men were killed throughout.

He took a conspicuous part in both raids on Ostend and had also taken part in the previous raid at Zeebrugge.

A survivor from the *Vindictive*, when interviewed, said: "If it had not been for him, none of us would have been here. Rees, though machine-gun bullets were dropping like hailstones all around him and was badly wounded, stuck to the wheel and kept the launch alongside until he got the order to sheer off when the last man had been taken from the cruiser.

"Then he steered her out through a stream of machine-gun fire, never taking his eyes off his job or leaving his post for an instant. As he was hit in the arm and shoulder, it must have been agony for him to have held on to the wheel all this time and swung a heavy launch about, but he did it."

Colonel Hughes went on to say that before joining the Navy, Leading Seaman Rees was apprenticed as a pilot to Mr E J Ford of Barry Docks, under the Pilotage Board, and both Mr Ford and the Pilotage Board wish to make him a presentation.

When the marines and seamen did get onto the Mole, they discovered that there were German machine gun positions and barbed wire between them and the guns. They also came under fire from a German destroyer docked on the other side of the Mole. The foretop guns were soon put out of action, and the superstructure of the *Vindictive* almost totally destroyed. The landing parties suffered very heavy casualties. However, they did succeed in dis-



Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

Mr Ford presented him with a silver cigarette case and the Pilotage Board with a framed letter of congratulation and appreciation.

Further presentations were a silver mounted walking stick on behalf of the Barry Sea Scouts, of which he was formerly a member, and a wristwatch by the staff and scholars of his former school, Gladstone Road.

Mr Lloyd-Jones, the headmaster, in making the presentation on behalf of the school, congratulated Rees on his distinction and spoke very highly of him as a boy.

He was once awarded a special prize for seven years' unbroken attendance. Rees modestly and appropriately responded and was loudly and continuously cheered.

The attack on Zeebrugge had taken place on April 23, 1918. The *Vindictive* came under heavy fire as she approached the Mole. It had been intended to stop the *Vindictive* directly in front of the German guns. Instead, she came to a halt three ships' lengths away from their targets.

It then proved to be unexpectedly difficult to get the ship close enough to the Mole to allow the troops across, and so she had to be rammed on the starboard side by the ferry-boat *Daffodil*.

When the marines and seamen did get onto the Mole, they discovered that there were German machine gun positions and barbed wire between them and the guns.

They also came under fire from a German destroyer docked on the other side of the Mole. The foretop guns were soon put out of action, and the superstructure of the *Vindictive* almost totally destroyed.

The landing parties suffered very heavy casualties. However, they did succeed in dis-

tracting the Germans at a crucial moment, and two of the three blockships were able to reach their target.

They were sunk in the entrance to the inner harbour, but didn't block it. The Germans were able to dredge a new channel around the blockships, and the port was very quickly back in use.

The attack on Ostend, unfortunately, failed to achieve the same level of success. It was then decided to launch a second attack, this time using the badly damaged *Vindictive* as one of two blockships.

The attack was made on May 10. Once again the *Vindictive* came under heavy fire. On the way in, her captain, Commander Godsal, and her navigator were both killed.

She then ran aground at the channel entrance, and could not be moved. She was sunk in place, blocking one third of the channel.

Once again, the mission failed to prevent German submarines from using the harbour, but the two attacks did raise morale in Britain at a crucial moment in the war.

Jonathan Hicks's new crime novel 'The Dead of Mametz' is to be published by the Welsh Books Council in May. Copies can be ordered now through booksellers or Amazon.

Girls' reunion is a great success at local venue

THE Mount Sorrel Hotel was the venue for the fourth reunion for girls of Barry County Grammar School who attended between the years 1959-1966.

There were 70 ladies who came to lunch and several more came for tea and to meet the guest of honour Miss Mary Young Smith, who formerly taught chemistry at the school.

Miss Young Smith, now 90 years old, was the only teacher who was able and/or courageous enough to come to the reunion, as it must have been daunting to meet so many old pupils.

However, she was a fantastic sport and thoroughly enjoyed herself. Monika Jones (Lloyd) gave a short speech of welcome, along with a roll of those who are no longer with us, and then

went on to introduce Miss Young Smith who, on being presented with a bouquet of flowers, stood to give a short speech of thanks, which was very well received.

Then Denise Pickett (Prater) the former head girl, gave a vote of thanks and presented, on behalf of everyone present, a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Monika as a thank you for organising the reunion.

Janet Whitehead (Neale) got everyone to stand for a spirited rendition of the school song and it was surprising how well everyone remembered the words once the singing began. Sue Gregory (Garwood) even brought her own school song book with the words she had originally copied out so we knew what we were singing.

Mount Sorrel had provided a wonderful meal and lunching together gave everyone time to



MISS YOUNG SMITH.

have long chats with erstwhile friends before the mingling took place. Ladies had come from the four corners of Britain (and Spain) as well as Barry and Cardiff, and many friends had not seen one another for many years.

The feedback, via email, phone and post, has been tremendous and extremely positive and everyone has expressed their enjoyment of the event and interest in the next reunion.

September 2013 marks the centenary of the opening of the girls' school and it has been decided to hold a reunion for any former pupil who attended the school between its inauguration and its close in 1974.

To register interest, email centenaryreunion13@hotmail.co.uk as the event will be a ticketed affair to cover hiring costs of the hall. Information will be sent out nearer the event.

MJ

NEWS FROM YSGOL GYMRAEG SANT CURIG



Watch out there are newshounds about!

Re-discovering local rural riding routes

THREE RIDE OUT TO RIDE THE TRAIL...



PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY resident Paige Sherreard (15) and her friends Izzie Morgan (11) and Eva Wilcox (11) were riding their ponies so much on busy roads that Paige decided to find out if there were any local bridleways.

She contacted the Vale Council to find out whether there were any nearby and Susan Thomas from the council was very helpful.

She made enquiries and discovered a few bridlepaths close to where the girls keep their ponies. The three girls were keen to explore them and discovered, that although

overgrown, the bridleways were rideable.

Paige contacted Mrs Thomas to see if any help could be made available to clear the routes and was delighted to hear that the bridleways should be tidied up in time for the summer.

Paige commented: "We don't really mind riding on the roads and most drivers are very careful around the ponies, but it isn't ideal!"

"We have really enjoyed discovering the bridlepaths and look forward to the summer and being able to explore them further and being able to share them with other riders!"

School's cub reporters are on the case!

PUPILS from years-3 to 6 recently published their first school newspaper called 'Sgwp'.

The 'Press Gang', led by year-6 teacher Matthew Mcavoy, were split up into groups with pen and notebook in hand and sent on scooping missions in the school.

They spoke to teachers about events in the school, past and present, wrote fact files about teachers, there was a

short story to enjoy as well as reporting on any sporting or fundraising events.

The paper was well received by pupils and staff. Editor Tion Davies, a pupil in year-6, said: "We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and all the staff helped with useful and interesting information."

"We've already begun to collect ideas for our next issue of Sgwp."

Rotary quiz in Dinas Powys

THE Rotary Club of Dinas Powys is organising a village quiz in Dinas Powys Parish Hall on Friday, April 8 at 7.30pm (for an 8pm start).

The quiz will raise funds for local charities. Teams are restricted to four persons, but there is no limit on the number of teams that may be entered. Entry is £20 per team, which will include a light supper. Beer, wine and some soft drinks will be available on the night.

For further information, contact Shaun Doyle or Natalie Crosby on 02920 330885 or office@ivor-fire.co.uk.

CM

YOUNG VOICES SPEAK OUT AT THE OPENING OF THE VALE YOUTH FORUM



THE Vale Youth Forum (VYF) was officially launched in Barry recently.

The VYF is a new network for young people between the ages of 11 and 25 who live in the Vale of Glamorgan. Adolescents are encouraged to join the organisation and have a say in how their communities are shaped for the future. The VYF meet up at least once a month to highlight the views of young people and organise how to present them to the Vale Council and Welsh Assembly Government to encourage change.

Elected individuals from youth groups and schools across the Vale

Report by JO PRICE

attended the opening.

Their intention was to introduce themselves and express their opinion on a particular community issue before an audience of councillors, trustees, politicians, friends and family.

Tracey Downes, temporary VYF co-ordinator, informed The GEM that the facilitators of the VYF had been preparing their ideas since their first meeting on December 16. She has played an important role in recruiting members of the VYF by approaching the heads of schools and youth centres.

Sharon Topazio, a trustee of the VYF, said

it was "great to see the representatives up on stage after they had been so busy rehearsing."

Dionn Meredith said that being part of a youth group and the VYF gave them all the "confidence to speak up."

Vale councillor, Gordon Kemp, described the youth forum as "fantastic."

Mr Kemp said the VYF's "interest and involvement in the community" made its participants reflect the values of PM David Cameron's 'big society' concept.

Jess, a member of the VYF's editorial group and youth group 'Funky Dragon' said: "It is our right to have our voices and opinions heard."

This sentiment was echoed later on by Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Mr. Towler referred to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in his speech and fully supported the work of the VYF in enabling children's voices to be heard.

He said: "There is nothing more powerful than when young people speak for themselves." He encouraged councillors to "work with young people" and told the VYF members that they "represent the future and here and now."

The young people had focused their discussions prior to the opening on sub-categories, the first being 'things that annoy us.'

Candy said the "cost of public transport was too expensive for youth in the Vale."

Ellis's concern was that, "vandalism ruins the places where we live". Emme wanted to "improve the impression of youth in the Vale."

Another concern of VYF members was 'lack of facilities.' Sian wanted to "improve sports facilities because there isn't enough for young people to do".

Thomas wanted local

councils to improve the condition of his local park. "Fencing in the park would stop us losing the ball," he said.

Scott wished he could "stop people hanging around the streets."

The third sub-committee was to prevent bullying. Chloe asked for there to be "more peer support groups in schools so pupils have someone to talk to and not feel alone".

The VYF members are currently working on a film called the 'Rights Busters.' It aims to raise awareness of the prejudice suffered by those with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Michael Owen explained that the film will feature superheroes that rescue individuals with learning difficulties from difficult social scenarios.

Additional publicity for the work of the VYF is managed online via the website www.swoosh.me.uk by a dedicated media team that records every meeting and event and aims to encourage more young people to take part.

Jane Hutt AM praised the VYF as a "launch pad for great things in the Vale" in the final speech of the night. She said she wanted the "youth forum to hold us to account as politicians".

The next step for the VYF is to recruit a full-time youth co-ordinator. It was a plea raised by VYF member, Connor, and several others throughout the evening.

The VYF has recently put in a request to the Vale Action Scheme through the Vale Council for three years funding to pay the wages of a full time youth co-ordinator.

The project wants to ensure the VYF members receive as much support as possible for their work and can continue to make progress. No decision has been made regarding the request as yet.

New chief

NatWest has appointed a senior bank manager for Glamorgan, to take charge of the bank's 10 local branches.

Marlene Harries, who has been a senior bank manager for outer Cardiff and is a Welsh speaker, will be responsible for the bank's main branches in Bridgend, Barry, Cowbridge, Porthcawl and Penarth. She will also oversee its sub-branches in Pencoed, Llantwit Major and Dinas Powys.

Wick YFC dinner-dance

WICK Young Farmers Group is holding its annual dinner dance at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend, on Saturday, April 9 at 7pm. Contact Katie Evans on 07539 796420 or www.ickyfc.co.uk

Skin Studio of Penarth

Skin Studio - Keeping clients smooth this summer

We at Skin studio appreciate that the summer is coming and everyone wants the perfect beach body and who are we to get in the way!

We are offering the **first 100** Glamorgan Gem readers this once only offer:

Remove unwanted hair - for good with our laser hair removal!

Choose from the following deals:

- 6 treatments on one small area - was £300 now £99
- 6 treatments on one medium area - was £600 now £150
- 6 treatments on one large area - was £900 now £220

Buy all 3 courses of 6 treatments for just £400 saving a massive £1400

All body areas can be treated. Examples of these areas include:

Small: Lip and Chin. **Medium:** Underarms.

Large: Man's Back/Extended Bikini.

Our laser hair removal machine Phaser EPL is the biggest innovation in hair removal method and technology for over fifty years. It offers a clinically proven, fast, safe and effective method for removing hair leaving you with smooth skin everyday, **so no more waxing or shaving ever!**

Call the clinic today to take advantage of this offer! Once its gone, its gone!

Terms and conditions:

This offer is limited only to the first 100 bookings. Payment must be received in full by Saturday 9th April. For new clients to skin studio a full consultation and patch test will be required with a cost of £25. All body areas treated within one sitting per treatment. 48 hour cancellation policy - if clients miss a treatment within 48 hour cancellation notice the pre paid appointment will be taken and can be bought back at full price. Full payment must be made at point of booking. If paid for by debit or credit card there will be a £3 charge that will be applied at the point of transaction.

The Skin Studio Advanced Treatments, Advanced Results
112-113 Glebe Street, Penarth, CF64 1EB T: 02921 250 221

E: skinstudio@hotmail.co.uk

W: www.skinstudiowales.com



ABOVE: The Vale Council Leader Gordon Kemp.



ABOVE: Vale AM Jane Hutt.



ABOVE: Michael Owen and Dionn Meredith.



LEFT: Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales.



GWOBRAU BWYD A DIOD
FOOD & DRINK AWARDS 2011 - 2012

Y DYDDIAD CAU AR GYFER CEISIADAU YW 15 EBRILL 2011
Eleni rydym yn annog pawb i wneud cais ar-lein ar gwirflas.tv
Os nad ydych yn siŵr o unrhyw beth, colliwch ffonio
0800 085 3663

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS 15 APRIL 2011
This year we're encouraging everyone to enter online at truetaste.tv
If there's anything you're unsure about simply call our advice hotline
0800 085 3663

High-flying Mike gets a lift on Goodyear 'blimp'



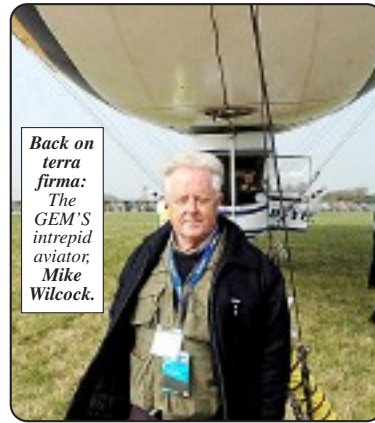
ABOVE: The Goodyear blimp in all its glory.
BELOW: Penarth Pier as seen from the 'blimp'.



MANY people in the Vale saw the 'Goodyear blimp' touring the skies over the weekend, and GEM photographer Mike Wilcock (below) enjoyed a trip earlier this week.

Mike has done planes, trains and automobiles in the past, but an airship was a new experience for him. As you can see, among the sights captured by Mike from the air was Penarth Pier.

The idea behind the 'blimp' is to promote road safety and it is the first time it has been in Europe for more than 10 years.



Back on terra firma: The GEM's intrepid aviator, Mike Wilcock.

Jasmine joins St John cadets at the Palace

FOURTEEN St John Wales' youngsters were meeting the Princess Royal at a special reception for young achievers in Buckingham Palace yesterday (Wednesday, March 30).

They were invited to the reception hosted by Princess Anne, Commandant-in-Chief (Youth) of St John Ambulance, for achieving their Grand Prior Award.

This is the highest award a St John Ambulance cadet can achieve and marks at least three years of sustained effort studying 24 different subjects, including working in the community, outdoor pursuits and first aid.

Among those being recognised was 17-year-old Jasmine Vincent of Barry, who has recently returned from Zambia after being part of a group which trained more than 3,500 people in lifesaving first aid skills.

Jasmine worked hard to achieve her Grand Prior award and has been a dedicated member of the Barry division since she was six.

She said: "The best part about being a member is being offered fantastic opportunities and having the ability to really make a difference in my community."

Jasmine knows how important it is to learn first aid skills, after helping casualties who were involved in a road traffic accident at Penarth last year.

"I helped by reassuring the casualties and waited with them until the ambulance arrived. "I also encouraged them to lie down and to elevate the limbs that were bleeding," she recalled.

Dr Bob Broughton, chief commander for St John Ambulance in Wales, said: "I'm delighted that we are able to send so many young members to the Palace to meet Her Royal Highness Princess Anne.

"It's so pleasing that we have so many exceptional representatives going from all over Wales to such a prestigious occasion."

St John Wales has a vibrant and growing youth movement – 70 per cent of its 4,900 volunteers are under the age of 25.

The charity is committed to offering young people a wide range of opportunities and organises a series of international and national events every year.

To become a member of St John Wales, or to find out about a division near you, contact 029 2044 9600.



PICTURED (left to right): Jackie Memory, Lauren, president Judith, and Christina.

Praise from Soroptimists

SINCE 1996, to mark the centenary of secondary education for girls in Barry, members of Soroptimist International Barry and District, have presented a Cup to a Bryn Hafren school student who has made an outstanding contribution to the community.

As in previous years, possible recipients are suggested by club member and sixth form learning manager, Jackie Memory.

This year, members were asked to choose between Lauren O'Connell and Christina Brown.

Lauren hopes to study genetics at university, and her achievements include raising money for the British Heart Foundation and Great Ormond Street Hospital, running the year-7 eco group in school, and group in school, and training as a 'snowy owl' to enable her to

assist at her local Brownies.

Christina, who has applied to do a degree in environmental health in university, has raised money for Help for Heroes and will be doing a sky dive in May for this charity.

In her role as sixth form charity co-ordinator, she is excellent at motivating students and staff in varied projects from collecting bras for Senegal, to Christmas food hampers for the elderly, and shoe boxes for children abroad.

Members were unable to choose between these two remarkable young ladies, and club president, Judith Lewis, was delighted to jointly present the Cup, together with a cheque for £30 cheque, to each of these worthy recipients.

To find out more about us, visit www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk/barry-and-district.

Bryn Hafren pupils on their 'upcycling' expedition.



'Upcycling' fashion show is all in aid of local charity

BRYN Hafren pupils are putting their fashion sense to good use to help a local charity.

Miss Morgan, Mrs Saleem (PCGE student) and the year-10 textiles class have been working with the George Thomas Hospice for a future in-house fashion show (date to be confirmed).

Pupils visited the charity's shop to find garments that they could 'upcycle' and revamp into new fashion garments to model on the catwalk.

The pupils are going on an exciting trip to a celebrity fashion show at the Hilton Hotel where they will learn how a show is run and find inspiration for their own

show. Some pupils have even been given the opportunity to model at the show!

Once the final garments have been made, they will contribute towards the pupils' final

mark in their coursework portfolio. George Thomas in Barry have agreed to display the result in their shop window to demonstrate how DIY fashion can be trendy and fashionable.

The pupils from Miss Morgan's textiles group will be making a donation to the charity and wanted to say a big thank to the George Thomas Hospice!

Vale AM supports Atal y Fro on 'Women's Day'

Joining the Atal y Fro International Women's Day event at the Mount Sorrell Hotel, Jane Hutt AM gave a speech on the centenary of International Women's Day.

The talk focussed on the recent challenges for women in the Vale and Wales, specifically, the threatened closure of the Vale Magistrates Court, which has a domestic abuse court, and the UK Government cuts in spending which could have an impact

on benefits and services important to women.

Jane Hutt said: "The Atal y Fro approach to tackling domestic abuse is pioneering. It is all about prevention and education as well as supporting the victims of abuse."

"I was delighted to speak at the event, applaud their work and help promote the 'Walk a Mile in Women's Shoes' organised by Atal y Fro and Barry Comprehensive school students at King Square."

Sober message on a fun day: 'No place for domestic abuse'

PHOTOS by PAUL JONES
For more pictures, go to: www.valeevents.co.uk

ON Saturday, March 26, a fun event was held in King Square Barry, but with a serious intent behind it.

Atal y Fro, local politicians and members of the public were keen to broadcast the message – "There is no excuse for domestic abuse".

Not only did the participants have a good time, passers-by were interested in what was being said, too.

BEST FOOT FORWARD!





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At the first hint of summer sunshine and lighter evenings, people are keen to make the most of their gardens – and then start to get creative in terms of how they can make their outdoor space more attractive.

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To contact Nick Stout Paving & Landscaping and arrange a free consultation, call 0290 20711364, or 07973 873965.

'This Morning by Prestige' arrives in Leekes stores

PRESTIGE, one of the nation's most recognised names in kitchenware, and ITV1's flagship daytime programme, *This Morning*, have teamed up to create an exciting new kitchen collection, which is available at Leekes.

The 'This Morning by Prestige' collection has been designed to 'make life a little easier'. The collection includes an aluminium non-stick saucepan set and pressure cooker, high performance non-stick bakeware and a stunning collection of oven to tableware.

The aluminium three-piece saucepan set is designed for the everyday chef, this non-stick is extremely durable.

'Soft touch' handles provide a comfort grip, whilst the glass lids allow for 'see through' cooking convenience. They are suitable for all cooker types, except induction.

The pressure cooker is the perfect way to cook healthy meals in a fraction of the time of conventional cooking.

The oven to tableware is designed for microwave, refrigerator and freezer use. Each item is also dishwasher safe and comes with a five-year guarantee.

The bakeware collection gives excellent heat conduction, with snazzy purple silicon grips providing secure handling when placing in and out of your oven. The non-stick coating allows for easy food release.

The 'This Morning by Prestige' collection is available in-store and online at leekes.co.uk from April 2011.



Looking to advertise your business in over 41,000 newspapers, from Penarth to Porthcawl AND online? Contact the Glamorgan GEM on 01446 774484 or email gemsales@internet-today.co.uk and see what we can do for you!

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NEWS FROM BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Insights into the life of Lawrence of Arabia

THE talent of some of the Forum's members continued to be demonstrated at our last meeting when Mac Tanner spoke for an hour on the 'hidden' side of Lawrence of Arabia's life after he left his glamorous desert activities behind him and enlisted in the newly-formed Royal Air Force as a humble ranker.

He pointed out that being humble was not really part of this man's character and he seems to have had a multiplicity of personalities. One part of his post World War One character



Lawrence on his Brough Superior.

craved a quiet reflective life in an all male society, another part still hankered after publicity and a desire to shape events from behind the scenes.

The speaker brought home the fact that even

as an AC2, Lawrence had powerful patrons and friends such as Lord Trenchard, the founder of the RAF itself.

It is extraordinary to note that another friend of his, namely George Bernard Shaw, supplied him with new and very expensive Brough Superior motorbikes.

After being posted to India, Lawrence had to be returned by the Indian government in great haste after he was accused by sections of the more sensational press in Britain of fomenting rebellion in Afghanistan, while disguised as a 'holy man' and living in a cave.

The Afghanistan gov-

ernment of the day issued a warrant for his arrest. As Mac pointed out, it is not only in modern times that the press is given to flights of fancy.

On returning to the UK, Lawrence served at RAF Mountbatten at Plymouth and while there, still as a ranker, was largely responsible for getting two huge changes in the law enacted.

With his friend Lady Astor's help, he had regulations brought in that would give the pilot of an aircraft sole charge of it, regardless of the rank of anyone being carried.

He also used a friendly MP to get legislation passed in Parliament to abolish the death penalty in the armed forces for cowardice.

The speaker mentioned the invaluable work Lawrence did before leaving the RAF on the development of high speed launches.

These eventually became the advanced boats that rescued so many downed pilots during the last war.

After leaving the RAF at the end of his service, he enjoyed only a short spell of leisure at his home at Clouds Hill in Dorset before meeting his death in 1937 at the early age of 49, while travelling on his beloved Brough Superior.

At the next meeting on March 31, Dafydd Evans will speak on the 'Winter War'.

Meetings are held at 10.30am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry.

For further details contact 029 2059 4881.

CAM
RENNAT

FoE is to meet

THE next meeting of Barry & Vale FoE will be on Tuesday, April 5 in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

The proposal to build in the Highlight Park area of Barry will be high on the agenda.

Soroptimist fashion show raises £1,000



INSTEAD of the customary annual luncheon, Judith Lewis, president of Soroptimist International Barry and District, decided to hold a fundraising afternoon tea and fashion show at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

Club member Kay Thomas, who owns a classic ladies' fashion shop in Llanishen, provided the clothes and club members hosted tables and baked cakes. The event raised £1,000 with

raffle money of £270 being donated to Project Sierra – a Soroptimist International Federation project to provide 'Hope and Homes for children in Sierra Leone'.

A donation of £300 was made to the Barry Branch of Barnardo's, in recognition of the contribution of members who made all the sandwiches.

The remainder went into the president's charity fund and will be added to other money

raised, to make donations to various charities including Water Aid, Marie Curie in Penarth, and Velindre Hospital.

The photo (ABOVE) shows president Judith and Kay, together with club members and friends who acted as models.

To find out more about soroptimists, visit www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk/barry-and-district CD

Penarth Computer Club news

OWEN was chatting to a couple of young children and showing them the features of his iPhone; he was adept at using the touch-screen technology, where finger taps and movements in contact with the screen are interpreted into commands to which the gadget responds.

He does the same with his iPad and accepted an invitation to show us the scope of the equipment and its ease of operation.

The club concentrates its attention on Personal Computers (PCs) because they are the ones most used.

Apple computers, iPhones and iPads are generally recognised as being more sophisticated, better made, more intuitive to use and of a more pleasing design.

They are, however, also more expensive. Purely on price there are, therefore, more PCs than Apple Macs around. (The PC was copied by many manufacturers and the price fell because of the competition).

Nevertheless, we are interested in Apple products if only because the best points of design and usability tend to find their way onto PCs and it is always handy to know what to expect.

We have looked at iPhones in the past and found them fascinating, if expensive, and we have marvelled at the Apps (applications) available for them (many free and even more at low cost).

The iPad is another Mac product that is popular and growing. It is about one third of an inch thick and smaller than an A4 sheet of paper and weighs under 1.5 pounds. Owen connected his

iPad via our projector to put the display onto our large screen and proceeded to show its pages.

His company specialises in translating complex ideas into visual displays that are not, repeat not, Powerpoint presentations. Instead they can produce a chart of many separate illustrations arranged to provide a narrative giving a context to each piece of the overall scheme.

The value of the touch screen operation became clear when it was used to enlarge individual components of the big picture instantly for comment (and then reduce them again to restore the context).

Owen also demonstrated the high speed response to taps and swipes of fingers on the screen when scrolling through screen after screen of icons for applications (Apps). He then gave a brief

demonstration of the variety of some Apps, both for work and play, pointing out that intuitive nature of the controls means that there is virtually no learning curve involved.

Owen was using an original iPad. iPad 2 will be available from March 25 with more features and a version 3 is expected in the autumn. We will watch with interest.

After completion of his talk, he was thanked for giving his time and was promptly besieged by members wanting to get a closer look at the iPad and ask more questions.

The club will meet on April 12 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30pm, showing how drawings and designs can be produced using spreadsheets for fun. Visitors welcome. Enquiries on 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD
DESMOND

Ardwyn Singers in local church benefit concert

THE Cardiff Ardwyn Singers will present a concert, *Tu es Petrus*, at St Peter's Church, Dinas Powys, at 7.30pm on Sunday, April 10 in aid of the church funds, before they leave on an Easter tour of Rome and Florence.

The programme at St Peter's, Dinas Powys, will include works by Byrd, Victoria, Fauré, William Matthias, Hoddinott and there will be the premiere of a newly-commissioned work by Mervyn

Burch. Tickets available at the door, or contact John Fanshaw on 029 2051 4188 or by email: jrfanshaw@talk-talk.net.

This concert will serve as a prelude to Dinas Powys Music Festival, when concerts and other activities are held in local venues, between May 8-15.

During the Easter tour, the Ardwyn Singers will be singing Mass at the Arch-Basilica of St Peter's, Rome, on Easter Monday.

The Ardwyn Singers will also be performing live on Radio 4's 'Sunday Worship for Palm Sunday' at 8.10am on Sunday, April 17.



WEST END OF BARRY...

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The Penarth 'Party on the Pier' celebrates Welsh Tourism week with local entertainers

ON Saturday, March 12 Welsh Tourism Week inspired a 'Party on the Pier' event in Penarth..

There was music from the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, and 'All That Jazz'; along with street entertainers and facepainting to keep the children amused.

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
PAUL JONES**

To see more images of this and other events in the Vale, please go to:
www.valeevents.co.uk



Owls 4 U gives opportunity to handle feathered friends



ON March 19, Porthkerry Park hosted an Owls 4 U event and local photographer Paul Jones was on hand to capture the excited youngsters – and a few adults – as they were given the chance to hold the delightful creatures.

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
PAUL JONES**



BARRY PUPILS HAVE AN ACTIVE RED NOSE DAY!

COMIC Relief this year in Barry Comprehensive was all about 'doing something funny for money' and in the spirit of the day, a class of year-12 Welsh Baccalaureate pupils organised 'Inflatable Day' – which turned out to be one of the most successful charity days for the school to date.

The sports hall was filled to the brim with all things bouncy – from a bungee run, where pupils strapped themselves into an elastic harness and ran as far as they could manage before being flung back, a bouncy castle and a mega slide – to an enormous inflatable obstacle course (with lots of thanks to Carl's Castles!).

In the hall there was



Sumo wrestlers get ready to rumble!

sumo wrestling, kangaroo boxing and an inflatable gladiator duel – where two opponents boxed each other with padded pugil sticks while perched on elevated podiums (thanks to Anthony's Castles for this equipment). Then, in the gym, there was a penalty

ly earned his money!) and stalls selling drinks, lollies and snacks.

The day's fun was broadcast on Bro Radio, with Cerys Wakefield and Andrew Jones from 12JE as DJs for the event.

The sixth form pupils organised everything: from obtaining quotes, hiring the equipment, drawing floor plans of the venues, to working tirelessly to ensure everyone was safe and happy on the day.

They were a credit to the school and themselves, as were all the pupils who generously gave their money for such a worthy cause.

A big thank you goes to everyone who helped in the raising of the whopping £1,200 for the Comic Relief Red Nose Day Appeal.

Not bad for a bouncy day's fun!

AC

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Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department

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Newydd Housing Association

121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
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Arthur Davis Ct	8	Bronze	10/01/11
Arthur Davis Ct	3	Silver	04/03/11
Columbus Close	84	Gold	15/12/10
Dyfrig Court	33	Gold	29/11/10
Gwenog Court	16	Gold+	04/01/11
Gwyn James Ct	9	Gold	10/05/10
Heol Y Llongau	118	Gold	04/11/10
Heol Y Llongau	54	Gold+	16/08/10
Hunt Place	13	Bronze	10/08/10
Liddicoat Ct	16	Silver	10/03/11
Maes Yr Yagol	58	Gold+	09/11/10
Michaelston Close	81	Gold+	26/02/10
Monmouth Way	20	Gold	06/12/10
Narberth Court	34	Gold	16/12/10
North Walk	25	Gold+	08/02/11
O'Donnell Road	67	Gold	23/11/10
Owain Court	5	Bronze	18/09/09
Parkland Walk	19	Silver+	26/01/11
Pendine Close	39	Gold	21/02/11
Pontalun Close	18	Gold	17/12/10
Severn Avenue	38	Gold +	22/09/10
St Catherine's Ct	28	Gold	03/06/10
Stewart Road	40	Gold	26/07/10
Williams Crescent	149	Gold+	15/05/09
Winston Road	62	Gold	12/01/11

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DENBIGH COURT, PENARTH

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Readjusted
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• One-bed bungalow
• Central heating
• Double glazing
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DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1066833
Suitable for a single person or couple
• One bedroom flat
• First floor
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
Rent £89.01 per week including service charge

DYLAN CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 208456
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
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GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 972370
Suitable for a single person over 55 - no pets
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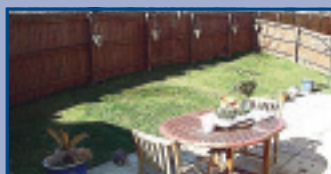
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The Council, in accordance with Section 21(1)(a) Representation of the People Act 1985, shall fill this vacancy by way of co-option.

Any* qualifying Local Government elector who is interested in the possibility of being co-opted onto the Town Council should inform the undersigned in writing no later than

1.00 pm Friday 8th April 2011

*Please note that it is not a requirement to reside within the Ward.

Dated this 24th March 2011.

Mr Andrew Davies, Town Clerk
Cowbridge (Ancient Borough)
with Llanblethian Town Council
Town Hall, 21 High Street, Cowbridge CF71 7AD

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31st March, 2011

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Family Notices

TWOMEY John

Peacefully at Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor on March 22nd.

John, aged 56 years, formerly of Jenner Street, Barry, dearly beloved son of the late Jim and Mary Twomey, much loved brother of Pat, Moira, Norma, Anne and the late Bill and Terry, brother-in-law of Joan, David and Mike, loving uncle to all his nieces and nephews.

Resting at A. G. Adams & Son, Tynnewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his requiem Mass at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Tuesday, April 5th at 10am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only but donations in lieu to Mencap, Barry

EVANS

Arthur Henry

Peacefully on March 23rd at Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend.

Arthur (Big Arthur, retired Driver Aberthaw Cement) of Gileston. Devoted husband of Hilary, dearly loved father of Robert, dear father-in-law of Ceri, much loved grandfather and great grandfather (Bapi) of Llinos-Wyn, Lloyd and partner Claire, and Gethin.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons Fommon. Funeral Thursday, March 31st, Service 2.15pm. at Llysowrney Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm.

No Flowers by request. Donation if desired to Velindre Hospital, c/o J. W. James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

DAVIES

Phyllis (Phyl)

Peacefully on March 22nd at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a short illness.

Much loved wife of the late Canon Bill Davies and devoted mother of Anne, Peter and Andrew and loving grandma to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service at 1.15pm on Thursday March 31 at St John's Church, Llanblethian, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only please, but donations to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice, Head Office, St Hilary Court, Copthorne Way, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff CF15 6ES.

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
ACT 1982 AS AMENDED BY
SECTION 27 OF THE POLICING
AND CRIME ACT 2009



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDO LLYWODRAETH LEOL
(DARPARIAETHAU AMRYWIOL)
1982 FEL Y DIWYGIWYD GAN
ADRAN 27 O DDEDDO PLISMONA
A THROSEDD 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 28th February 2011 Vale of Glamorgan Council (the Council) passed a resolution that the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (The Act) as amended by Section 27 of The Policing and Crime Act 2009 shall apply to the Vale of Glamorgan Council with effect from 1st June 2011.

The effect of this resolution is that the Vale of Glamorgan Council will be able to regulate sex establishments. Any person wishing to operate a sex establishment as defined by Schedule 3 requires a sex establishment licence, unless the requirement for a licence has been waived by the Council.

Local people will have a greater say over the regulation of these premises.

Sex establishments are sexual entertainment venues, sex cinemas or sex shops.

A sexual entertainment venue means any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer. Relevant entertainment may include lap dancing, strip shows and table dancing or other similar forms of entertainment as decided on a case by case basis.

Adoption will also ensure applications for sex establishments are considered and activities are appropriately controlled under the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Licensing regime.

Further information is available at:
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or by contacting the Licensing Section on 01446 709105 or email Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

HYSBYSIR TRWY HYN fod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn gallu rheoli sefydliadau rhyw. Bydd rhaid i unrhyw un sydd am redeg sefydliad rhyw fel y diffinir yn Aodlen 3, gael trwydded, oni bai bod y Cyngor wedi hepgor yr argen all hysg.

Mae hyn yn golygu y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn gallu rheoli sefydliadau rhyw. Bydd rhaid i unrhyw un sydd am redeg sefydliad rhyw fel y diffinir yn Aodlen 3, gael trwydded, oni bai bod y Cyngor wedi hepgor yr argen all hysg.

Bydd gan bobl leol fwy o lais o ran rheoleddio sefydliadau o'r fath.

Ysgrif sefydliadau rhyw yw lleoliadau adoniant rhyw, amnau rhyw neu siopau rhyw.

Mae lleoliad adoniant rhyw yn golygu unrhyw le sy'n cynnig adoniant perfformio perfformio cynulleidfa fyw ar budd atannol y trefnydd neu'r sawl sy'n ddiannu. Gall adoniant perfformio gynnwys dawnsio glyn, siocau stripio a dawnsio burrd neu fathau tebyg o'rall o adoniant a benderlyniar leol achos.

Bydd mabwysiadu'r darpariaethau hyn hefyd yn golygu bod cwsidau ar gyfer sefydliadau rhyw yn cael eu hygyddio, a bod gweithgareddau nacellu'rhaol'n broddol den sefydliadau trwyddedau Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael yn:
www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk neu trwy ffonio'r Is-adrann Drwyddedau ar 01446 709105 neu e-bostio Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Listed Building Consent Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00221/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Replace two windows and backdoor
Location/Lleoliad:	3, Tower Hill Avenue, Penarth
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00241/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Repointing and repair to stonework external elevations
Location/Lleoliad:	Llansanor Court, Llansannor
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade I

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Geisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 31 March, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 31 Mawrth, 2011
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

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(12/13)

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

RIDING honours at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ystradowen last Saturday went to Tom David of Llanharan, who rode his first ever treble.

After finishing second on the long odds-on favourite *Green Mining* in the members' race, David went on to win on *Billybo* (aged maiden), *Little Shilling* (mixed open) and *Ask The Thatcher* (restricted).

Billybo, an eight-year-old bay gelding, owned by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan and trained by his wife Abbi, was in a handy position throughout and went clear three fences from home to win by five lengths from *WheresThePost*, ridden by Jodie Hughes.

Little Shilling, who, back in 2008, won six hurdle races on the trot, jumped the last fence alongside the favourite *Sir Monty*, partnered by Welsh champion rider John Mathias, and in an exciting finish got home by three quarters of a length from the early pacemaker *Merdeka* a further 20 lengths back in third spot.

Little Shilling is owned by Barry's Andrew Lowrie and has the Welsh Point-To-Point 'Grand National' at the Pentrych at Bonvilston on April 23 as his next target.

Ask The Thatcher, a seven-year-old bay gelding, owned and trained by Bridgend's David Brace, looked a beaten horse when *Tenspinsinhiits*, ridden by Isabel Tompsett, took over the running with three fences to jump. However, despite being half-a-length or so down at the last fence, *Ask The Thatcher* fought back bravely on the run to the winning post to win by half-a-length.

There was a presentation during the afternoon to David's grandmother, Mrs Olive Thomas, of Flemingston, who, up until this year, has been the entries secretary for more years than she cares to remember and who has

now graciously agreed to become the hunt's point-to-point treasurer.

Three of the nine entries faced the starter for the members' race and this resulted in a win for Helen Porter's French-bred *Obelix De Longchamps* who, under Nathan Deakin, jumped to the front at the second last fence to score by 25 lengths from Brett Lloyd's *Green Mining*, with Lucy Brice's *Cool Cliche* a further 12 lengths away.

The longest priced winner of the day was 20-1 chance *The Duckster* who, confidently ridden by Paul Tolman, had two-and-a-half lengths to spare over *Lady Trig* in the young horse maiden race.

The favourite, *Hidden Bay*, ridden by Tolman's partner Jodie Hughes, finished sixth and last of the 13 runners.

Not much bigger than a pony, *The Duckster*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, was running for the first time this season and is trained by his rider.

The club members' race went to *Attorney General*, owned and trained by Pembrokeshire National Hunt trainer Dai Rees.

A 12-year-old bay gelding by *Saddler's Wells*, and a former inmate of Sir Mark Prescott's yard, *Attorney General*, ridden by John Mathias, drew away in the closing stages to win by 20 lengths from *Rich Nomad* partnered by Ben Poste.

Honorary secretary Peter Thomas was delighted with the tremendous crowd that turned up to witness some exciting racing and the Ystrad & Taf Fechan Hunt, which will be holding their annual races over the course on April 16, will be hoping that their meeting will attract just as big a crowd.

Next Saturday, the Monmouthshire Hunt Point-To-Point will be held at Llanvapley near Abergavenny. First race at 2pm.

You can email your views/news to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 02920 736438.



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Wolves enjoy football day



DINAS Powys Wolves under-8s enjoyed a great day out on Saturday to watch Wales v England. Meeting at the Ship public house for lunch, Cresta coaches then provided transport to and from the game.

The game itself was a disappointment, but all concerned had a fantastic time and hopefully a day which they will not forget in a hurry. Thanks to all who made it a lovely day. **LS**

Dinas Powys girls in thriller

WITH the destination of the league title almost certainly resting on the outcome, this was a game neither Mardy Tigers nor Dinas Powys under-18s could afford to lose and the occasion appeared to get the better of our girls as Mardy started much the brighter.

A sweet right foot volley from the edge of the box dipped under the bar and Dinas were one down.

The Dinas girls kept battling away but an excellent header from the Tigers striker put them two-up and some sloppy defending then led to a third goal for the home side.

All looked lost for Dinas in the quest for the point that would put them in the box seat for the rest of the season.

At half time Dinas reverted to

their more familiar 4-4-2 formation, bringing on speedy winger Becky Cornelius for full back Fontaine Franklin, who had been battling bravely with a stomach problem.

Following a free kick from striker Shanelle Edwards, the Mardy keeper made an awful error and the ball rolled into the net.

This acted as a spur for the Dinas girls and in no time at all a brilliant burst down the right and dangerous cross by the dangerous Cornelius saw striker Jordan Guard follow in to head into an empty net.

The momentum was now with Dinas and following a Guard corner, midfielder Amy Wathan headed the visitors level.

Despite being visibly shaken, the Mardy girls showed great resilience and while Dinas' out-

standing sweeper Lucy Thomas was off the pitch following a nasty clash of heads with Tigers' Jade Edwards, the home side again took the lead after defending failed to clear the ball.

Undeterred and showing fantastic character, back came the girls and another Jordan Guard corner was mishandled by the home keeper, and again it ended in the net.

With just about five minutes to go, a superb lob volley saw Guard complete her hat-trick and give Dinas the lead for the first time in the match.

Mardy now needed two goals to keep them in with a chance of taking the league title.

To their credit they never gave up but the task eventually proved too much for them. **MW**

BARRY SECONDS COME OUT ON TOP IN LOCAL DERBY

BARRY Second XV returned to league action for the first time following the Six Nations championship with this local derby away at **Old Penarthians**.

Knowing that a victory would cement their place at the top of the table, the visitors came out all guns blazing.

Jason Evans rolled back the years and carried the ball enthusiastically, while the front row, led by Glenn Morgan, wreaked havoc at scrum time.

Two penalty opportunities, however, were turned down to confound the coaches and it was the Old Penarthians who took the lead with a well-directed kick of their own, against the run of play.

Far from being down hearted, Barry upped the ante and forced their hosts back into their twenty-two, and despite frequent stoppages in

Old Penarthians Second XV **10**
Barry Second XV **34**

play they managed to build up some good momentum.

With the pack gaining the platform for the backs, the visitors finally opened their account with a well taken Rhys Hardy try; Adam Lee was unable to add the extras.

Lee was more successful soon after with a penalty kick, but at half time the game was still up for grabs for either side.

That situation did not last long.

Substitute James Hadfield energised the Barry pack right from the off, and good carries from Jason Evans and Grantley Harris put David Williams through for his fifth try of the season.

The visitors continued where they left off and found themselves back into Old

Penarthians territory again almost straight from the restart.

This time the forwards took control and Morgan crashed through for a try.

Lee was successful with both conversions.

What followed was a period of scrappy play, punctuated by stoppages, poor handling, and unnecessary spats that characterise local derbies.

It was Barry who emerged better out of this period of play, as Kyle Case scored the fourth try to ensure the bonus point.

There was still time late on for the hosts to deservedly cross the try-line after a howler from Hardy in his own 22, before Harris rounded things off with a try of his own, his seventh of the season.

Team: Lee, Adams, **KC**

Harris, D Williams, T Poole, Dimond, Hardy, Hosking, Alyn Evans, Morgan, Elsworth, McTavish (captain), O Poole, Case, J Evans.

Subs used: Hadfield, Rolfe, Alex Evans, R Williams.

Man-of-the-match: Morgan.

OTHER NEWS

MORE than £300 was raised in the charity quiz night held last Saturday.

Host Ken Chow, who will be working for the charity Bridge2Aid in Tanzania in April, would like to thank all those who turned up to make the night a very special one.

Gratitude must also be extended to those who made cash donations or gifts which were used as prizes for the night to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

Anyone who wishes to make an online donation please visit www.justgiving.com/hsm-tanzania-2011.

THE SCORPIONS RUN RIOT WITH 11-TRY WIN

SOUTH Wales Scorpions did the damage before half-time to sail to their first win of the season as **Gateshead Thunder** were downed **60-20** at **The Gnoll**.

The Scorpions ran in 11 tries, seven of them in the first 40 minutes and despite a mini comeback from the Tynesiders, the result was never in doubt.

Scorpions took the lead on five minutes when Christiaan Roets latched on to Casey Bromilow's bouncing grubber. Following a penalty, Andrew Gay broke through the defence to score Scorpions' second try five minutes later.

Lewis Reece scored

SCORPIONS **60**
GATESHEAD THUNDER **20**

the third try on 17 minutes, and converted it himself. Reece ran over for his second and Scorpions' fourth on 25 minutes after being released on the left wing, once again converting.

Roets followed him over on the same wing from kick-off; Reece converted.

Gateshead hit back after winning a scrum, but Scorpions addressed the balance when Bromilow stormed through the middle to score. Reece converted to make the score 32-4.

Soon after it was 36-4, Curtis Cunningham going over in the corner.

However, Gateshead hit back again just before the interval.

The second half start-

ed well for the home side as they scored inside 60 seconds. Curtis Cunningham picked up a lucky bounce to run through

for a try which Reece converted.

Gateshead scored another try, however, the Scorpions scored three tries in the last six minutes to give the game a slightly unbalanced look.

IAN GOLDEN

Barry under-8s have fun day out

BARRY RFC under-8s took part in the **Rhiwbina under-8s tournament** on Sunday.

The Barry side had three games, with no winners or losers, just a fun day with medals for all.

The visitors took time to settle in the first match, but after a good chat at half-time they came out firing on all fronts. They just lost out 8-5 with tries from C Saunders (4), D Parry-Griffiths, Z Ffield.

The next game seemed

to come too quickly for the Barry team as they put so much into their first match, losing out by a few tries. Try scorers J Roberts, C Saunders.

In the final game, Barry played with some good tagging; try scorers in this match were B Phillips, E Galsworthy (2), and D Wall.

All players again played their part in a fun day, including: D Parry Griffiths, C Saunders, R Rendell, T Pugh, C Denbury, I Esscot, J Couch, J Roberts, E Galsworthy, Z Ffield, D Wall and J Jones. **LS**

Sea View lads angling results

THE Friday evening competitions are enjoying some good support from members.

On March 18, 12 fished and Eddie Collins cleaned up with three dogs.

In second place was Paul Crook with Steve Doble in third.

It was a shame that Geoff Davies forgot to book in, he also had three dogs and could have been in with a chance of winning it!

The boats for 2011 are all fully booked, and it's good to see the boat section being so well supported after a few years in the doldrums.

The countdown for Weymouth has begun and we suppose the coach trip will be next.

Membership is still high with over 80 paid-up members and new ones still joining, and with luck we shall soon hold another auction - once we find our auctioneer!

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Cowbridge under-7s' round robin success

A FINE day saw Cowbridge make the short trip to Llantwit Major for a round robin against the hosts and two Pontypridd teams.

With the large Cowbridge squad evenly split between two teams, the Greens and the Whites, all the boys saw plenty of pitch time.

Game 1 was against the Pontypridd B team and the Cowbridge boys were quickly into their stride with full length scoring runs being the order of the day.

The Cowbridge defence was stronger than the Pontypridd one and the subsequent turnovers gave the boys a well deserved victory, final score 8-5.

Scorers: Tom Brennan (2), Finlay Ball, Finlay Brace, Ethan Francis, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees.

Game 2 was against the hosts Llantwit Major and the results were very similar to the first match.

Final score 8-5 to Cowbridge, scorers Reuben Davies (3), Rhydian Williams (2), Robbie Brown, Evan Davies, Steffan Evans.

Game 3 was against the Pontypridd A team who had defeated the hosts in a closely fought encounter.

The Cowbridge boys once again were able to match their illustrious counterparts and won, the final score 7-5.

Scorers Reuben Davies (3), Rhydian Williams (3), Akka Guwy.

While it's lovely to see the Cowbridge team being able to run in tries from all over the pitch, the defence is still falling back and waiting for the opposition to run around them.

Special mention must be made for the sterling work put in by Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies and Akka Guwy, who

were to the vanguard of the defensive moves; what you do in training is not just for Wednesday nights!

Squad: Finlay Ball, Tom Brennan, Finlay Brace, Robbie Brown, Henri Cairns, Evan Davies, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies, Steffan Evans, Ethan Francis, Akka Guwy, James Jones, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Luke Tredwell.

Under 12s

COWBRIDGE defeated local rivals Llantwit Major with a comfortable win away from home. Three tries from Dan Bunney (the second hat trick in consecutive games) and Harrison Stevens, plus one each from Duncan Ace and Cai Evans provided a confidence booster before their Blues Cup semi-final against Pontypridd next week.

Cai Evans also had an excellent all round kicking game, including six conversions.

The home side had no answer to the well controlled rucks and mauls of their opponents, with Ollie Rampling, Will Couzins and Josh Evans prominent throughout the game.

Whenever Llantwit threatened the Cowbridge line brave tackling from Tomos Evans-Williams, Henry Jones and Matthew Keating held them at bay.

Scrum half Osian John regularly provided quick ball to allow Seán Davies, Toff Patel and Charlie Pegrum to breach the Llantwit defence time and again.

The home side made a valiant effort to score near the end of the game but a try saving tackle from Charlie Martin prevented the visitors crossing the line for a final score of Cowbridge 52, Llantwit Major 0.

MTL

Cowbridge squash team win in peculiar set of circumstances!

NEWPORT E travelled to the Cowbridge Athletic Ground for a do-or-die relegation battle with the Cowbridge A Bar 44 squash, but may have come unstuck from what was a 3-2 win on the night for the Gwent team.

Team selection should reflect squash club players ability rankings, but the Newport line-up featured a player from the higher ranked Newport Ds at No 1.

League rules state that the infringing team lose all points gained from the illegal position down, hence reversing the result from 8-15 to 19-0 to Cowbridge, which virtually secures mid-table safety – even a narrow chance of a promotion slot!

For the record, the match took the following course.

Garfield Leask (No 3) was outplayed by the experienced Mike Logan and consequently dipped to a 0-3.

Simon Payne was again involved in another epic 5-setter – eventually coming through 9-6 in the fifth with a couple of tie-break games on

the journey.

At No 5, Niall Sloan looked out of sorts for the first two games before looking to have turned the corner in game three with a 9-2; but his young Newport opponent stepped on the gas to run out a 3-1 winner.

Number 1 Nick Guard had a virtual stroll in the park (9-0, 9-1, 9-4) against the Newport No 1 – clearly the product of split-strength teams from the Rodney Parade lads.

This meant the match was finely balanced at 2-2 with another marathon match taking place at No 2 – the hard-running of Jon Bisson paid dividends in the early stages with JB taking a 2-0 lead, but his 17-year-old opponent, George Evans, found the fight to match his youth to run out the eventual 3-2 winner.

The Cowbridge Bs Bar 44 were entertained by St Mellons E on every squash player's

favourite night out – 5pm on a Sunday!

Unfortunately, the Bs are back in the mire, only coming away with six points from a 1-4 defeat and now have the prospect of taking on league leaders Barry to attain enough points to stave off relegation.

Only Colin Baxter (No 4) could produce a winning performance, 3-1. Numbers 1 to 3, Paul Reynish, Chris Ranger and Richie Ford, managed a point each in their 1-3 results while Russ Watts drew a blank at No 5 – match result 6-17.

The Cowbridge Cs Shampian had a rest week, but need a big win against Cardiff

University B in their final fixture and hope that Old Penarthians C go down badly at UHW A.

Club details available from Clive Prigg (01446 773729); club skipper russ.watts@btopen-world.com.

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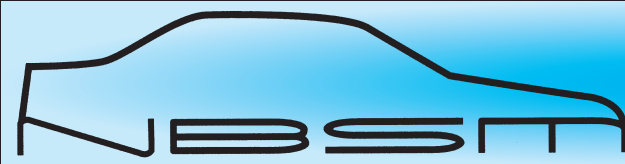
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- 03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles£3,995
- 89 89 BMW 3 Series 320i 2.0 2-dr Convertible. In silver with black leather interior, headlamp cleaning system, M-Technic steering wheel, wood effect trim, electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, only 68,140 miles£4,995

FAMILY

- 09 59 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140) Zetec 5-dr Hatchback in starburst silver with ebony interior, bluetooth phone prep, traction control system, air con, quick clear screen, cruise control, only 31,910 miles£12,995
- 08 57 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5-dr hatchback automatic. In amethyst with grey interior, alloy wheels, air con, immobiliser, quick-clear front screen, power steering, only 22,000 miles£5,495
- 08 08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr in star silver met with tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 10,800 miles£7,995
- 08 08 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-Dr Hatchback. In tango red with anthracite interior, quick clear screen, air con, CD, aux input, alloy wheels, only 10,700 miles£6,995
- 07 57 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDi Styleance in metallic ruby red with styleance grey interior, rear parking sensors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles£8,495
- 08 58 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi Desire 5-dr MPV. In oriental blue with black interior, ISOFIX anchorage point, air con, front electric windows, only 36,740 miles£7,995
- 07 57 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8 16v SRI 5-dr MPV. In silver lightning with Silver Alpha Charcoal interior, air con, traction control system, alloy wheels, only 52,000 miles£7,495
- 07 57 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-dr MPV. In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles£6,495
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- 05 54 AUDI A3 1.6 Special Edition 3-dr Hatchback. In black with charcoal interior, CD, front fogs, climate control, alloy wheels, one owner only 60,300 miles£5,995
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09 59 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140) Zetec 5-dr Hatchback in starburst silver with ebony interior, bluetooth phone prep, traction control system, air con, quick clear screen, cruise control, only 31,910 miles.....£12,995



07 57 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDi Styleance in metallic ruby red with styleance grey interior, rear parking sensors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles.....£8,495



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05	VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4 Sport. In black with silver trim, 50,000 mile convertible at	£5,995
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99	MERCEDES SLK 230 Kompressor Auto in silver with black leather, 87,000 mile convertible	£5,995
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04	HONDA Civic 1.6 Sport 3-dr. In black, 50,000 miles, 2 owners with a/c, etc	£4,995
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05	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi SX 5-dr. In light met blue, 67,000 miles, diesel economy at	£4,495
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54	FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame 5-dr. In red, 63,000 miles with a/c, 2 owners	£3,995
04	FORD Fiesta 1.4 Silver 3-dr. 78,000 miles with full leather trim, alloys, c/d, a/c	£3,995
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52	FORD Fiesta 1.6 Ghia 5-dr. In gun metal silver, 34,000 miles, 1 family from new	£3,695
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51	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Authentique 3-dr in met blue, 68,000 miles, ideal first car	£2,195

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blackhorse

NEW LAP RECORDS MADE BY YOUNG RACERS AT LLLANDOW KARTING CLUB

THE second round of Llandow Kart Club's 2011 championship was notable not only for the warm sunshine that graced the majority of race-day, but also for a glut of new lap records.

With an entry slightly up on February's opening round, no fewer than six classes saw their benchmark times rewritten during a remarkable day, with other drivers

either breaking or threatening the old mark to underline the pace of the Llandow circuit.

As has become customary, the Bambino class got things under way with five runners, including a couple of new faces in Marco Costanza and William Elswood.

While both newcomers gave good accounts of themselves, the fastest times again belonged to those with previous experience, as Max Fenlon, George Alp-Williams and Alex

Austin filled the top three positions. Fenlon also underlined his early-season form with the first new lap record of the day.

Honda Cadet again boasted the biggest field of the day, with 16 drivers taking to the track, but once more proved to be about Ryan Edwards and Brandon Patrick. The pair shared the heat wins between them, with Edwards emerging on top, before engaging in a tense battle throughout the 10-lap final.

Although Edwards made the most of pole-to-lead, he could not shake his pursuer, and Patrick made the most of a rare chance to slip through two laps from home and hold on for victory. Hugo Holmes, who twice finished in the top three in the heats, completed the podium ahead of Daniel and Ross Thomas.

The Comer Cadet class may have had only half the number of run-



Ross Chell and Scott Morris do battle at the head of the Junior TKM field in round two of Llandow Kart Club's 2011 championship.

ners, but still provided close competition as Isaac Channing and Lewis Griffiths battled over top spot. Griffiths edged the heats and then withstood concerted pressure from Channing throughout the final to cross the line just 0.09secs ahead of the flag.

In a race where positions remained static

despite the well-matched field, Jack Barber claimed third place, as he had in each of the heats.

After serving notice of his potential as he returned to action in February's season-opener, Daniel Jones dominated proceedings in Junior Honda. In the absence of Welsh and Celtic champion Lloyd Sealy, Jones might have been expected to take control against three novices, but the MS-mounted driver was only denied a clean sweep by a second heat DNF, and broke the lap record on several occasions as he romped away with the final. Monty Gorridge, who claimed heat two following

Jones' mishap, claimed runners-up honours ahead of Danny Griffiths. With insufficient numbers in either class to warrant separate grids, Junior TKM and Minimax were again combined in an eight-kart field. Having swept all four races in February, Ross Chell found Scott Morris in

determined mood this time around, and had to give best to his rival in the opening heats before coming good in the third. In the final, however, it took Chell just three laps to hit the front and, despite Morris remaining glued to his rear bumper and setting a new lap record in pursuit, he held on to claim victory by a tenth of a second. Ryan Jones took third place.

After the frustration of seeing his February chances ended on the dummy grid, Lewis Malin was another on a March mission in Minimax. With just Rob Ellis for opposition, he claimed the first two heats, and returned to top spot in the final, winning by a couple of seconds as he gave chase to the leading TKM runners.

Senior Honda numbers improved again for the second meeting of the season and, with Chris Lipscomb back in the mix, the anticipation of competition between no fewer than five class champions was mouth-watering.

As it turned out, however, no-one could challenge reigning number one Simon Evans, who not only swept all four races, but also blitzed Lipscomb's lap record, which had only been set at the end of last season. To make matters worse for the Silver Fox Racing driver, he also found himself missing the final due to damage sustained in heat three, leaving it to Gareth Lewis, Hugh Jones and Paul Saunders to lead the pursuit of Evans.

In the end, it was for-

mer heavyweight champ Jones, continuing his unexpectedly strong start to the campaign, who finished best of the rest, and ahead of Lewis, as Evans strengthened his championship position with a two-second victory.

Junior Rotax again proved to be the domain of Macaulay Austin who, despite dropping the opening heat to James Johnson, then remained unbeaten for the rest of the day. Although not running away with the final, the much-decorated racer held a comfortable two-second advantage at the flag, as Dean Clayton – who hadn't featured in the top three in the heats – and Matt Ryder completed the podium.

Johnson, who lost second and third positions on the same lap, finished fifth behind Jordan Hawkins.

After dominating on his Senior Max debut at Llandow, reigning Junior champion Josh Collings proved that his form was no fluke by winning three of the four races, and setting a new class lap record as he stroled to victory in the final for the second month running.

Behind him, Chris Davis and Craig Mooney, Collings' most consistent rivals in the heats, completed the podium after running second and third throughout the final, while Matthew Dowers had to make do with fourth, despite tailing the pair for all twelve laps.

Wayne Stone again found strong opposition in the Max 177 class

and, despite rewriting the lap record, was unable to overcome Simon Wheeler at any point.

RESULTS

BAMBINO – 1, Max Fenlon (Birel); 2, George Alp-Williams (CRG); 3, Alex Austin (Zip).

CADET HONDA – 1, Brandon Patrick (Project One); 2, Ryan Edwards (Project One); 3, Hugo Holmes (Zip).

CADET COMER – 1, Lewis Griffiths (Zip); 2, Isaac Channing (Zip); 3, Jack Barber (BRM).

JUNIOR HONDA – 1, Daniel Jones (MS); 2, Monty Gorridge (7Kart); 3, Danny Griffiths (MS).

JUNIOR TKM – 1, Ross Chell (Jade); 2, Scott Morris (Tonykart); 3, Ryan Jones (Intrepid).

MINI MAX – 1, Lewis Malin (Tonykart); 2, Rob Ellis (Tonykart).

SENIOR HONDA – 1, Simon Evans (7Kart); 2, Hugh Jones (MS); 3, Gareth Lewis (7Kart).

JUNIOR ROTAX – 1, Macaulay Austin (Exprit); 2, Dean Clayton (Alonso); 3, Matt Ryder (Kosmic).

SENIOR ROTAX – 1, Josh Collings (CRG); 2, Chris Davis (Storm); 3, Craig Mooney (CRG).

ROTAX 177 – 1, Simon Wheeler (CRG); 2, Wayne Stone (CRG). Best Novice: Joe Pritchard (Honda Cadet); Driver of the Day: Simon Evans (Senior Honda).

REPORT: CRAIG LLEWELLYN

PHOTO: HARDY RODDE

Win a copy of horse racing book

THE Glamorgan GEM has teamed up with Blenheim Press Ltd, who are giving readers a chance to win a copy of Bob Butchers' horse-racing book 'Silks, Soaks and Certainties'.

Described by The GEM's racing correspondent Brian Lee as "one of the best horse-racing books I have read in years," this book takes a light-hearted look at the racing scene and will appeal to all who are racing 'buffs' and many who are not.

The tale of a family whose links with racing have spanned more than a century is packed with many wonderful evocative accounts of incidents and characters of yesteryear; some of the

activities would, to say the least, be frowned on today.

Bob Butchers was the original newsboy on the Daily Mirror, a post he filled with distinction for almost 39 years.

To have a chance of winning one of the two copies that are up for grabs, just answer the following question:

Last year's Grand National winner Don't Push It was ridden by:

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B. Paul Moloney

Please address all entries to: Grand National Book Competition, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, with your full name and address, along with a telephone number, no later than Friday, April 8.

Good luck!

BRIAN LEE

Maizy Missile speeds home

MRS Mary Evans's nine-year-old bay mare Maizy Missile was a three lengths winner of the handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot.

Confidently ridden by Paul Moloney, home-bred Maizy Missile was made a 5-1 favourite and came home three lengths ahead of Mr Bachster.

Mrs Evans, a former point-to-point rider of note, hails from Llancarfan and farms in Pembrokeshire with her second husband Bill Evans.

Her son, Evan Williams, had an across the card double on Saturday.

At Bangor-on-Dee, his Chrysander won the opener under Aidan Conlan and at Stratford-on-Avon, his Penelope Pips, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won the bumper (National Hunt flat race) by a head from Dazzling Rita.

BRIAN LEE

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Lions keep warm!



ABOVE: The team are pictured with their new hoodies

Ladies' golf season is now underway

ONE of the rounds of the Mail on Sunday was played at Southerndown on March 20 – Southerndown (ladies) v Pyle and Kenfig.

Southerndown won. Congratulations to the team and good luck in the next round.

Also, one of the Daily Mail rounds was played

at Southerndown on March 17. Two ladies from St. Mary's Golf Club played Dawn Austin and Chris Evans – Dawn and Chris won 3 and 1. Congratulations to them and good luck in the next round.

The Coronation Foursomes was played on March 21 and the winners were Jean Broughton (captain) and Liz Dodd.

PARK LIONS under-13s would like to say a big thank you to Just 4 Let for buying hoodies to keep them warm.

Since it's been a cold few months training outside, these have been invaluable.

For more information on the club please contact Kim on 01446 738486.



GEM sport

SPEED'S NEW ERA GETS A REALITY CHECK FROM ENGLISH NEIGHBOURS

FOR Wales, 2011 is the start of a new era. With a thus-far pointless European Championship campaign having seen off John Toshack, and defeats against Bulgaria and Switzerland spoiling Brian Flynn's claims to succeed him, the Welsh FA has turned to Gary Speed.

A four-month spell in the particularly hot-seat of Sheffield United has been the limit of Speed's experience, a reign that hardly set the world alight, and the novice manager could have hoped for a gentler introduction into competitive international football than England at home.

It was a task made all the more difficult with Gareth Bale's

withdrawal on Thursday with a hamstring injury, but as new captain Aaron Ramsey led his team out to do battle with 'the neighbours', there was an air perhaps more of hope than expectation engulfing a sold-out Millennium Stadium.

That hope lasted all of five minutes, as Wales, who began far more nervously than their counterparts, conceded a penalty. Ashley Young evaded his club teammate James Collins, only for the Welshman to make an ungainly challenge on him in the box; the referee had little hesitation in pointing to the spot, and Frank Lampard converted.

With a good start hugely important, this setback seemed to shake the Welsh players, who were unable to get the ball out of their own half. The task was

made all the more difficult when Glen Johnson's exquisite pass found man of the match Young, and his low cross was tapped in by Darren Bent to give England a two goal cushion after only 15 minutes.

With the sell-out crowd deflated, and Wales struggling to impose themselves, the remainder of the half saw neither team really threaten, with England easing up and Wales failing to get going.

With playmaker and captain Aaron Ramsey being forced deep to get the ball, and then being marshalled superbly by Scott Parker, Wales went in at the break having achieved nothing.

The second half performance was at least livelier from the men in red, and their first half

chance came on 53 minutes, Bellamy lifting the ball behind Ashley Cole, but Andy King blasted wide.

Their best chance came seven minutes later. Ramsey's through ball found Morrison in the penalty area, but hesitation and the attention of John Terry meant the Millwall striker couldn't get a shot away.

With the arrival of David Vaughan and Ched Evans, on for King and Morrison, giving Wales more impetus going forward, Ramsey had more time to affect the game, but again the lack of quality at vital times put paid to any notion of an unlikely, and undeserved, comeback.

Put simply, Wales were not at the races on a day when they should have been, not only in terms of who the opposition

were but also in terms of breaking their duck in the qualifying group.

Poor performances and Speed's managerial naivety only exacerbated matters against an England team who did enough to win at a canter without really breaking a sweat.

Why Speed opted for Andrew Crofts in the midfield instead of David Vaughan, who has been one of the Premier League's best performers this season, beggars belief, as does the inability to grasp that Ramsey would be unable to impact on the game if he wasn't given the time and space he needed.

Much like the situation their rugby counterparts found themselves in, picking up a win would be a vital confidence boost for a team who have tasted

victory only once in the last eight games, and whose next competitive game comes in September with a home tie against the surprise package of the group, Montenegro, before a visit to Wembley four days later.

Defeat in those games, while not a disaster, would be a further knock for a team whose lack of quality and ability was exposed on Saturday.

While, like previous managers, Speed has said that qualification for the 2014 World Cup is his main aim rather than Euro 2012, he shouldn't take his eyes too far off the present situation – otherwise things may get a lot worse before they get better.

GARETH JAMIESON

Barry Town show off their 'six' appeal with a superb win

WHAT a difference a week makes. Having suffered their biggest defeat last week in four years, the Dragons bounced back to beat the same team by 6-0, their biggest win for three years.

Showing just one change from the team beaten last week, with the returning Damon Searle replacing injured Lewis James, the Dragons were out of the blocks from the kick-off.

Rob Blatchford started the ball rolling when he beat two defenders, before a slide rule pass to Anthony Nagi saw him fire the Dragons into the lead in the 10th minute. On 20 minutes, another through ball saw Mike Hartley double the lead.

The expected backlash from Bryntirion did not come and yet

**BARRY TOWN
BRYNTIRION ATHLETIC**

**6
0**

another through ball on 40 minutes, this time from Geraint Frowen, gave Anthony Nagi the chance to make it 3-0 and he did not disappoint.

Everyone expected Bryntirion to come out all guns blazing, but the Dragons were in no mood to let them back into the game and by the hour the game was all but over.

A poor clearance from the normally reliable Bryntirion defence was played back in by Lewis Cosslett, and Ryan Jenkins pounced to volley the ball past a stunned 'keeper.

Within eight minutes, Nagi had scored his third when he twisted and turned in the box to fire home.

Bryntirion went down to 10 men when

Matthew Jones was sent off and Rob Blatchford thought he had scored, but his shot crashed against the crossbar and was cleared.

The Dragons, however, were not to be denied a sixth and with eight minutes to go, another Rob Blatchford shot was charged down, but substitute Josh Bell was on hand to volley home the rebound.

Manager Leon Dennis brought on Lee Baldock, one of the club's youth players, for his first appearance in the senior team.

The overall performance was one of the best seen at Jenner Park in many seasons. With Kurt Bettles, James Saddler and Lewis James to come back from injury, Atif Bashir returning from interna-

tional duty and new signings Kirk Huggins and Michael Parkins ready to come in, there will be competition for places for the first time in many months.

The Dragons cannot, however, rest on their laurels as there are still difficult games ahead and concentration will be required, but they can at least bask in the glory of a job well done until Friday, when they entertain Bridgend Town at Jenner Park with a 7.45pm kick-off.

Dragons: Dan Bradley; Geraint Frowen, Dan Clare, Lewis Cosslett, Damon Searle; Rob Blatchford, Scott Jones, Sam Hartley, Mike Hartley; Anthony Nagi (sub Lee Baldock), Ryan Jenkins (sub Josh Bell).

DC

Improved performance yields win for Dinas

THIS was a much improved performance in this rearranged game and the visitors gave a more assured performance, keeping Ammanford in check and restricting them to just one shot on goal throughout the game.

The home side started well and had the greater share of possession for the first ten minutes without creating any chances on goal.

For Dinas, Gareth Tedstone laid on a good opportunity for Mark Dunford but the referee's assistant had already

Welsh League Division Two
Ammanford
Dinas Powys

**0
2**

raised his flag for off-side.

A few minutes later Dunford made no mistake, forcing the ball in from close range at the near post after Liam Jones' strong run had created a crossing opportunity.

Dinas had chances to increase their lead when a Danny Street pass found Tedstone, who held off his marker before firing across goal and then Liam Jones made forty yards to the left side of the area before crossing for Mark Dunford to head just wide.

Bowling open day

DO you fancy learning a new sport or are you already a bowler?

If so, join the chairman and members of Rhosce Bowling Club on their opening day on Saturday, April 9 at 2pm.

The club will provide coaches and equipment for you, you just need to wear shoes without a heel; trainers will do as long as their bottoms are not ridged.

The club is at Celtic Way, Rhosce, and is clearly signposted; the club look forward to seeing you on the day.

to give Dinas a two goal lead.

When Ammanford did get the chance of an effort on goal they over-complicated a free-kick on the edge of the area and wasted the opportunity.

Dinas manager Marc Cahill rang the changes bringing on all three substitutes late in the game, but Dinas were able to see out what time was left to gain all three points.

Squad: 1. Dave Burnett, 2. Rhodri Foote, 3. Danny Street, 4. Stephen Provis, 5. Dave Peniket, 6. Jon Carpentier, 7. Ricki Morgan, 8. Liam Jones, 9. Mark Dunford, 10. Gareth Tedstone, 11. Ben Dimond. **Subs:** 12. Michael Hayward, Stephen Provis, 14. Amanj Hassan, 15. Rafeeq Kaid, 16. Dan Jose.

Seven minutes into the half, a Liam Jones corner cleared the heads of everybody in the penalty area.

Ben Dimond picked up the ball on the far touchline and crossed back into the area.

Keeper Stewart Lloyd misjudged the flight of the ball and it sailed over his head and into the top corner of the net

Next game: Welsh League Division Two, Saturday, April 2, Dinas Powys v Newcastle Emlyn, kick off 2.30pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's website:

www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

MW

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